## THE NATIVE PRESS.

### DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS.

The "Afkar."—A cereal merchant of the Minet el Bassal market writes to us that the S.C.B. has received several suggestions with regard to the distribution of flour among people, including one to the effect that every person should be given a personal ticket explaining the quantity of flour required for his own family for one week and that only such tickets should be presented to merchants who would supply flour according to the permission contained therein. This step tends to prevent women from going out to get flour from the market by themselves. But the S.C.B. has not yet shown any inclination to accept any of these suggestions. Why it should not do so while the crisis is so intense we cannot understand. Many people have to get up from their beds at midnight in order to get bread before it is too late, and the street boys have begun to sing sad songs about the shortage of bread, as we are informed by our Damanhour correspondent. We sincerely hope that the Supplies Control Board will take immediate measures for the removal of this crisis and giving relief to the poorer classes and the weak.

### FUTURE OF THE LEBANON.

The "Omma."—We do not think that any one denies that Mount Lebanon occupies a special position in Syria, nor do we think that the entry of the Allies into Lebanon will reduce its privileges. On the contrary, we believe that it will increase those privileges, for the Allies have not gone there to take but to give. They have not conquered the country with the object of subjugating people but with a view to liberating them. We need not go into a detailed discussion on the subject, and the situation can be summed up in a brief statement: The Allies have two separate questions before them in Syria—the question of Syria and the question of the Lebanon. The former is directly connected with the brethren the people of Syria, and the latter concerns us alone. The Lebanon has enjoyed full internal independence for ages, but Syria has been an Ottoman vilayet for the last 400 years. After 1860 the Lebanon acquired an international position when its autonomy was guaranteed by an international treaty, and the country which had a guaranteed independence before the war cannot be reduced now to a simple Syrian province. The Allies have promised to give independence to the communities which have no independence, and it can not be believed that they will remove independence from a community that has enjoyed such a right for ages. The Powers may do in the Lebanon, it is presumed, what they have done in the Balkans, for the only logical result is to promote its autonomy to full independence.

### A PRINCE'S DEGRADATION.

The "Afkar."—With reference to the degradation of Prince Mohamed Aly Hussein from the rank of Prince, we understand that this step was taken as a result of some troubles and incidents caused by the degraded prince, and reported officially by the police. The latest incident took place recently at the Café de Bosphore and we referred to it when we said that a timber merchant had informed the Parquet that a great man had taken a sum of money from him as price of a certain quantity of wood which he had arranged to sell to him, but neither delivered the order nor returned the money. The "great man" in question was the ex Prince. He is 25 years old.

### MANURE WANTED.

The "Ahram."—Cultivators have begun to make preparations for winter cultivation, and it is rumoured among them that the Government intends to fix the third of the area of lands for winter cultivation, but they do not know whether this is true, or not. Moreover the Agricultural Society has made no statement as yet about the nitrate of sodium manure which is essential for wheat cultivation. It is worth while of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Society in question to declare their views on the subject from now, so that cultivators may know what they ought to do in the coming season. It is interesting to note that the Canadian Government has begun to produce large quantities of nitrate of sodium and supply the Allied countries with all they require of it. The Paris press has shown the appreciation of the Canadian Government's move and the benefits it has given to the Allies. It is to be hoped that the British Government, which has taken a special interest in the augmentation of the corn crop in Egypt, will help the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Society to get sufficient manure for the land.

### OCCUPATION OF SYRIA.

The "Muattam" (from an article commenting on the official communique announcing the taking of Aleppo).—The Allies have taken Aleppo as was announced in an official communique on Saturday, and this success completes the occupation of Syria with its five provinces—the Mutasarrifat of Jerusalem, the Vilayet of Beyrout, the Mutasarrifat of the Lebanon, and the Vilayet of Aleppo with the exception of the districts of Alexandretta and Antioch of the last named province, the taking of these places will be announced shortly.

### MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

"Wady el Nil."—It is again assured that it has been arranged to set up a roads and canal Ministry for communications in Egypt. This will be called the "Ministry of Communications" and which will conduct the administration of the railway service, the Telephone, and all other lines of communications—by air and the Nile, etc.—which are expected to be enlarged after the war.

### POLICEMAN AIDING AND ABETTING

The Assistant Mamour el Zapt of Cairo stated that a member of the Cairo Civil Police in the Ezbekieh Kism is and closing his eyes and facilitating matters for thieves who habitually steal things from the military authorities. The dishonest member is even said to have been taking money from the thieves. The Assistant Mamour discovered the place where the policeman met the thieves, and disguising himself saw the policeman in the act and proved the charge against him. He also discovered a second man participating in the matter and both men are now arrested.

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## MANCHESTER GOODS IN EGYPT.

### KEEPING UP THE PRICES.

As the prices of Manchester goods in Egypt had begun to drop somewhat on the rumours of peace, the fellah especially abstaining from buying in the hope of obtaining pre-war prices in the immediate future, a meeting of the leading Manchester good merchants has been held, when it was decided to maintain the present high prices. For this purposes a syndicate has been approved with a capital of L.E.200,000, which will make advances to the small traders, who may find themselves in difficulties. The syndicate will make advances to these traders to the amount of 50 per cent of the total value of their stocks and these loans will bear interest at 9 per cent, the borrowers giving an undertaking that they will not sell below the present prices.

It is quite unlikely that this attempt to bolster up the market in order to maintain artificial prices will be successful, assuming that their syndicate is actually constituted.

## ALEXANDRIA'S HEALTH.

### MORE DEATHS THAN BIRTHS.

According to the official statistics, issued by the Alexandria Municipality for the week ending October 21, there were again considerably more deaths than births, 309 births as against 390 deaths, not including 13 native still-born children. Of these 281 were native and 28 foreign births and 324 native and 66 foreign deaths.

The decline in the population of Alexandria, as brought into evidence so prominently of late in the vitality statistics of the Municipality, is held to be due to economic and other causes, which have come into existence owing to the war. It is alleged that the natives for some time past have been postponing marriage owing to the rise in the price of food, while as to the European birth-rate a large number of young men, subjects of the Allied Powers, have been away since 1914, while all the enemy subjects of military age, who did not manage to leave the country on the outbreak of war, have been incarcerated, and the annual influx of Europeans into this country has entirely ceased. Under such circumstances and with the necessities of life always on the upgrade the death rate of Alexandria is tend to exceed the birth-rate.

Of the infectious diseases tuberculosis and phthisis accounted for 38 deaths, there were 11 cases of typhoid and 9 cases, 2 cases of exanthematic typhus and 3 deaths, 8 deaths from dysentery, and 3 from puerperal fever.

## AN OLD MARIOUT CRIME.

### INTERESTING LEGAL POINT.

A few days ago the Alexandria City Police seized an Arab outlaw of Mariout named Shimirzi Shalla, who condemned in 1903 to 10 years' hard labour for having participated in a crime perpetrated in that district in 1902. The man was handed over to the Parquet, which intended to refer him to the Native Criminal Court for re-trial in accordance with the criminal law which was in force when the incident took place. The details of the case show that Shimirzi was one of several men who on September 8, 1902, attacked Abdul Azim Effendi Wahbi, then Mohakez of Police at Mariout and two other policemen with aim and attempted to murder them. The case was tried by the Alexandria Assize Court on July 15, 1903, under the presidency of Judge Aziz Bey Kahil (now Pasha) and the accused were found guilty and condemned. Shimirzi, who could not be found at that time, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour, by default.

According to the Native Courts' regulations which were in force in 1902, the accused could lodge an appeal against the judgment passed upon him, and subsequently bring the case before the Court of Cassation, before the judgment became binding. We now understand that Shimirzi will be afforded an opportunity to defend himself under similar procedure. He will be first tried on November 14, by a Court specially composed of three judges of the Court of First Instance under the presidency of Judge Dimitri Bey Magar.

## PORT SAID OFFICIAL ARRESTED.

The Parquet has arrested Sayed Effendi Youssef, cashier of the Port Said Railway stores, on the charge of having taken money from some of the merchants claiming that he would present the money to one of the Department's Directors for the purpose of facilitating their business in the Department.

Aly Bey, Survey Parquet Agent in the Cairo Native Court of Appeal has been entrusted with the investigation of this case.

The arrested official came down to Cairo from Port Said on Monday night last and the enquiry began on Wednesday last by examining the accused in the presence of the Assistant Mamour El Zapt of Cairo and Ismail Effendi Shawky who are entrusted with the investigation of the theft of the sugar belonging to the Military Authorities from the Port Said Railway stores.

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## CRIME IN EGYPT.

A report on criminality in Egypt has just been published. From this interesting publication we gather that the actual number of crimes occurring in Egypt during the last eleven months amounted to 4176.

During the same period of last year the figures were 3756, and in the year 1916, 3747. It will thus be seen that crimes are increasing yearly instead of decreasing and that public security is really far from satisfactory in spite of the number of inhabitants who, this year, volunteered for service in the Egyptian Labour Corps.

The crimes of the last eleven months are divided among the different Governorates and Mudiriehs as follows:—Two hundred and forty one in the Cairo Governorate, of which thirty three were murders: 139 in the Alexandria Governorate, of which 24 were murders 47 on the Canal Governorate of which 10 were murders. Eighteen crimes occurred in the Arish Governorate, of which four were murders; and eleven in the Damietta Governorate, of which four were murders.

Two hundred and seventeen crimes occurred in the Galiobieh Province of which 24 were murders; 304 in Dakahlieh Province, 36 being murders; 217 Sharkieh Province of which 25 were murders; and 303 in the Behera Province, of which 70 were murders.

About five hundred and eleven various crimes occurred in the Gharbieh Province, ninety being murders; 258 in Menoufieh, of which 43 murders. 186 in Giizeh, of which 22 murders; 170 in Beni Soueif, of which 47 murders, 230 in the Fayoum of which 49 murders; 385 in Miniieh Province, of which 89 murders; 390 in Assiout Province of which 38 were murders. About 937 crimes occurred in Girga Province, of which 64 were murders; 285 in Kena Province, of which 61 murders; and fifty eight crimes occurred in Aswan Province, of which nine cases were murders.

Among the provinces of Lower Egypt, Behera Province possesses the largest number of crimes, 302, and after this comes the Cairo Governorate with 241 crimes.

The greatest number of murders was also committed in Behera Province, the figures being 76; Dakahlieh Province has thirty six murder cases, after which comes the Cairo Governorate with thirty three murders. The Governorate with the smallest number of crimes is Damietta, and after this comes the Arish Governorate, with 18 crimes, with the Canal Governorate with 47 crimes as a good third.

With regard to crimes in Upper Egypt, Gharbieh Province registers the greatest number of crimes, 511, after which comes Miniieh Province with 385, and Assiout Province with 380.

The largest number of murders committed was in Assiout, the figures being 48; after this comes Gharbieh Province with 90 and then Miniieh Province with 39 crimes.

The total number of murders committed in Egypt during the past eleven months is 869.

## ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market continued quiet, the following being the officially quoted closing prices:—

Unified closed a little weaker at £29 7/8 an eight drop, while Loan Turcs remained firm at fr.200.

Agricultural Bank dropped 1/64 to £6 15/32.

Credit Foncier shares were firmer rising five francs to fr. 745 and Credit Foncier bonds issues 1886, 1903 and 1911 were quoted at fr. 400, 290 1/2 and 280 respectively.

Alexandria Water Coy. closed unchanged at £12 1/4. There was a further rise of 1/16 in Wadi Kom Ombo which finished at £5 11/32.

Union Fonciere were weaker at £3 1/16 showing a drop of 1/32 and Gabbari Lands were neglected at £—3/4 1/64, 1/64 lower.

There was no change in Ordinary Khedivieh which closed at 51/64.

Salt and Soda dropped nine pence closing at 53/34, price movements being fee between 53/64. and 53/1 1/24.

Filatures Nationales N.E. dropped an eight to £9 1/4, while Brasseries d'Egypte were weaker closing offered at fr.265, five francs drop.

Cotton Ginners closed in demand at £—27/32.

Port Said Salt were quiet at 79/64, two shillings six pence drop. There was a drop of 1 1/24. in New Egyptian Coy. which closed at 18/64.

Egypt and Levant 8/8. were a little firmer at 29/4 1/2, 1 1/2 rise.

## LECTURE AT ZEITOUN.

While local audiences are well provided for in the matter of lectures, seldom, strange to say, does the subject deal with literature. (All the more welcome, therefore, was the Rev. E.S. Winter's address on "James Russell Lowell" at Zeitoun Y.M.C.A. on Thursday evening last, and those who had previously heard him speak at St. Paul's Church at a Tuesday night Brotherhood meeting knew that anything he might have to say on the American poet would be worth hearing. They were not disappointed.

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## AN ARABIC LITERARY DINNER.

An unique event in the Arabic Literary World took place in Cairo on Friday evening, the 25th instant, when a dinner was given at the Continental Hotel by the Publication Committee of the Nile Mission Press, the following distinguished writers being present: Dr. Faris Nimr ("Al Mokattam") Naoum Bey Shuqair (Sudan Office), Tadros Bey Shenuda ("Misr"), Asaad Effendi Daghir, Nicola Effendi Haddad, Khalil Effendi Motran, Dr. Farid Abdalla, Rev. Ghabriel Mikhail Al Dabb, Eelim Effendi Abdul-Ahad ("Palestine News"), Emil Effendi Zaidan ("Al Hilil"), Sheikh Mitwally Effendi Al Sharkawy ("Al Muqtaf"), Wasif ("Al Muhest"), Iskander Effendi Hassan, Habib Effendi Girgis, (Director of Coptic Clergy School), Taufiq Effendi Habib ("Al Akhbar"), Negib Effendi Shahin ("Al Mokattam"), Farid Effendi Kamil ("Al Watan"), Zakhary Effendi Bugtor ("Bashair es-Salaam), while Revs. Canon Gairdner, Dr. Giffen, Dr. Nyland, J. H. Acheson, and Messrs. George Swan and A. T. Upson (all members of the publication committee) entertained the guests.

H.E. Marcus Semaika Pasha had accepted an invitation, but was delayed at a meeting of the Coptic Muglis at the Patriarchate. Dr. Sarruf, Editor of "Al-Mokattam" Review" was with several others, detained by absence on urgent business. The Committee of Arrangement had not invited any journalists merely as such, the invitees being actual or potential authors and translators.

Mr. Arthur T. Upson, publishing superintendent, presided, the vice-chair being occupied by the Rev. Canon Gairdner, editor of "Al Sharq wal Ghrab."

After justice had been done to an excellent dinner, the Chairman rose and asked the Rev. Gharbial Mikhail to offer thanks to God for the freeing of Beyrout, formerly the literary centre of the Near East, and to pray for the recovery of Rev. Dr. Kruidenier, then lying ill. He then called upon Canon Gairdner (chairman of the N.M.P. Publication Committee, in the absence of Dr. Zwemer) to deliver an address which had been printed and distributed among the guests.

The Canon delivered a powerful address, of which the following is a brief summary:—

All the missionary societies make great use of mission-presses and, in such a few cases, strong Literature Societies have been formed, those for India and China being examples. This mission-press is exactly like the others, the object being one and the same, Being interdenominational, we print and publish Christian literature for all the churches.

This Arabic literature consisted of expository, devotional, apologetic and to expand and always to have first place, their branches, all of which will continue but we feel that the time has come when it is our duty to supply good high-class general literature of the sorts in which these lands are so conspicuously deficient. Some suggested lines of work are:—

(a) Biographies of great men's lives such as those of Gordon, Wilberforce, Lord Coburts, etc.

(b) Historical Stories. Georgy Bey Zeidan wrote the History of Arabic Literature in a series of seventeen stories; who will attempt a similar thing for the first six centuries of the Christian era?

(c) Translations. Though we prefer original Arabic, yet there are many books which make a general appeal to people of all nations, and which might be very useful for the youths of this land for whom there is little if anything at all.

The speaker then went fully into the question of financing Arabic publications and showed that, partly owing to poverty of education, days gone by, and partly owing to the native eagerness to cut down all prices so that neither printer nor publisher could be paid in full, there had never been, in the past, any remuneration for serious authors, with the natural result that the only class of book receiving attention had been that called "rubbish," or worse. He better way appeared to be for authors voluntarily to offer their rights to the Press, which on its part is ready to relieve them of the cares of production and circulation, and probable financial loss. Such MSS. would have to be submitted to, and passed by, the N.M.P. Publication Committee.

The lecture, which occupied about forty minutes in delivery, was received by the company with hearty and sustained applause.

The Chairman then produced samples of books to show the idea of the proposed series making special reference to the value of "Tarat Misr" by Dr. Sarruf, as an interesting story with a decided ethical appeal to the young.

Dr. Nimr, the founder of "Al Mokattam," and the "doyen" of Arabic letters, was called upon for a short speech. He told of his own publishing experience of nearly thirty years ago, and fully confirmed and powerfully backed the appeal made that evening.

Some promises of literary help having been received, the company separated.

The following is a translation of an Arabic card handed to the guests, giving a summary of work done by the Nile Mission Press during the first 13 years of work, this being, with the exception of the first line, entirely in addition to the better known Printing Department, of which Mr. Howard J. Weaver is Business Manager.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Cairo staff, as in 37 Manakh, | 70 |
| Number of colporteurs in the provinces (these are "Joint" Colporteurs) | 14 |
| Countries to which our literature is sent | 37 |
| Separate publications to date | 280 |
| Copies of books distributed | 1,099,365 |
| Printed for all the churches | 7,000,200 |
| Pages of the same | 132,000,000 |

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## CASHIER ACCUSED.

The investigating official entrusted with the case of the cashier of the Port Said Railway stores, called on Thursday morning last to Nagib Fahmy Bey, a high official of the Traffic Department and questioned him in connection with the charge imputed to Sayed Effendi Youssef the arrested cashier as already reported in our columns.

The main evidence of the Bey and others it has been proved that Sayed Effendi committed really the crime imputed to him.

## ALEXANDRIA LAND FRAUDS.

The Parquet General has concluded its enquiry into the Alexandria land fraud case, and has referred the accused, Mohamed Hassan el Hakim, the Algerian Doctor, Nassim Pahmi and Mohamed Ahmed Zeitoun, to the "Juge de Renvoi." The charges have been officially communicated to the accused.

## ALEXANDRIA'S COAL IMPORTS.

Between January 1 and October 24, 13,272 tons of coal were imported at Alexandria, of which 185 tons were Welsh, 1,114 tons Newcastle, Scotch and Yorkshire, and 3,973 tons other qualities. During the corresponding period of last year the imports amounted to 152,472 tons.

## BRITISH RED CROSS AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

### MALTA, EGYPT AND NEAR EAST COMMISSION.

Following are subscriptions and donations received, apart from "Our Day" Fund Appeal, up to October 4, 1918:—

| | L.E. | L.E. |
|---|---|---|
| Amount previously acknowledged | | 28290.987 |
| Sub. for September:— | | |
| Choremi, Benachi & Co. | 24.375 | |
| C.J. Choremi | 4.875 | |
| J. Price Jones | 4.875 | |
| Francis Hanna | 2.000 | |
| Jean Pancras | 2.000 | |
| J. Metaxer | 2.000 | |
| Sub. for October:— | | |
| Choremi, Benachi & Co. | 24.375 | |
| C.J. Choremi | 4.875 | |
| J. Price Jones | 4.875 | |
| D. Hamos | 1.000 | |
| A. Habousseis | 1.000 | |
| J.C. Choghas | .500 | |
| R.C. Abdy | 9.750 | |
| Donations:— | | |
| Lt. Godwin | 9.500 | |
| Rev. Edwards, C.F. | 12.675 | |
| | | 99.675 |
| PORT SAID: | | |
| Sub. for September:— | 10.000 | |
| The Port Said Salt Assoc. | 5.000 | |
| The British Coaling Depot | | 15.000 |
| CAIRO: | | |
| P. Sarris & G. Mastrantonis | 3.000 | |
| Iskandar Effendi Abdu | .500 | |
| Basil Costis Capsis | 5.000 | |
| Georges Kritikos | 2.000 | |
| Arab Gabriel | 5.000 | |
| N. Gazios | 1.000 | |
| Wm. Cartwright | 1.000 | |
| Dr. W.F. Hume | 1.000 | |
| N. Spathis | 2.000 | |
| E.D. Hershlower | 3.000 | |
| Victor Deny. (Don.) | 1.000 | |
| | | 24.500 |
| Received by Conv. Outings:— | | |
| Messrs. D. & B. Maslouna, Sub. for September | 1.000 | |
| Palestine News | .200 | |
| | | 3.700 |
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## OUR BALKAN MAP.

In view of the great interest now centered on the Balkans owing to the invasion of Bulgaria, we beg to state that we have a number of excellent maps of the Balkans and Eastern Europe. This is the largest, clearest, and best compiled one war map of this area published and is number 3 of the "Egyptian Gazette" War Maps, the others being out of print.

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