THE NATIVE PRESS.

CRIME IN THE PROVINCES.

The "Watan" (a telegram from Sohag, Upper Egypt), referring to the series of crimes which occurred recently in the "Markaz" of Quos, in the Kena province). — The investigation which has been held into the circumstances of the crimes which were perpetrated recently in the village of Awat Kamola, shows that the brigands of Nagel Birkeh had started their recent campaign in the Markaz with the object of taking revenge upon those who murdered some of their relatives last year. He was mainly proposed to do away with the man who entered criminals who commit the old crimes, and it has turned out that a rich individual of the district had participated in plotting against the people of Nag el Birkeh. We shall explain all that later on. The crimes which have occurred recently in the Markaz of Quos are 17 in number, and the Markaz authorities have not yet found any clues to the identity of the evil doers; and the secret of the whole trouble is still shrouded in mystery, in official quartets. Had it been known to the Markaz it would have been easy to prevent malicious intervention in the course of enquiry, and leave no room for any one to influence witnesses.

EXCESSIVE RISE IN RENTS.

The "Mokattam" (from an article on house rents). — We have received numerous letters in these days from people complaining of the rise in house rents in Cairo, Alexandria, and the chief towns in the provinces, and of the discontent of landlords who ask for excessive increases. This complaint, as we find, is divided into two parts — a complaint against the rise in house rents in general, and a complaint against the excessive rise in rents. As for the-rise in house rents this may be considered as quite inevitable under the present circumstances while everything is dearer than before. The landowner has increased the rent of his land as a natural result of the growth of the value of its products, the merchant has raised his prices and so the manufacturer and workmen have done, and there is no reason why the landlord should not increase the rent of his property — either house or shop..... But this of course does not mean that the increse in the rent should be excessive, and the public complaint in this respect is quite right especially in the case of poorer tenants .....

CONDITIONS IN SYRIA.

The "Akhbar" (reproduced from the "Huda", a Syrian New York daily paper). — Miss Mary Caroline Homes has just received private letters from Beyrout, via Switzerland, stating that there are fewer diseases in Beyrout now than before and the havoc brought about by fevers has greatly subsided. People are profiting a great many vegetables, utilising their gardens for this purpose. Last year there was an abundant crop of fruit in Syria, especially grapes, and people dried big quantities of them for winter. The distribution of grants is still going on regularly and increasingly. Mr. Oliver, one of the few English Missionaries who have been permitted to remain in Syria, and who lived at Ras-el-Matn, in the Lebanon, went down to Beyrout lately and took part in the thanksgiving day which the Americans celebrate annually wherever they live and in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

FAILURE OF EGYPT'S PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

"Wadi el Nil." — It has lately now transpired even in official quarters connected with the Ministry of Education, that the results of the Baccalaureate and Intermediate examinations this year, do not indicate that education is in a good condition in Egypt, and reflect little credit on the Ministry concerned. It seems that the Ministry has found it necessary to do something to produce a different result from its care and zeal. According to one of our contemporaries "the Ministry of Education has written to a large number of teachers and scholars asking them to give their opinions on the question of education in the country, putting different questions to them on the subject. We have not seen those questions which are kept secret by the men consulted, but we understand that the Ministry has felt the existence of essential defect in the programme of education".

LENIENCY TOWARDS FOOD ADULTERERS.

"The "Abaly." — The Alexandria Municipality has sent an account of the judgments passed recently by the Alexandria Summary Courts upon those who were found guilty of adulterating food stuffs, especially, milk, and sardines. It shows that most of the sentenced persons had been convicted on previous occasions, for the same offence. Some of them were punished twice, some three times, and some four, five or six times and this shows clearly that adulteration of food has become a sort of profession on the part of many small retailers! Matters are not much improving, it is believed, because of the leniency shown by the Law Courts to the accused. The offender who appears before the Courts for first time is sentenced to a fine of from P.T.25 to P.T.50, and he who undergoes trial for the second time receives two days' imprisonment. A retailer who was referred to the court for the fifth time for fraud was sentenced recently to three months' imprisonment. It is evident that the offenders would not have found it easy to repeat the same contravention more than once had the punishment been severer.

FORESIGHT IN EGYPT.

The "Mokattam." — The Ministry of Agriculture continues to purchase wheat, and it has hitherto bought a fair quantity of it in order to regulate the food question in case wheat becomes scarcer during the year, and so be able remove the causes of crisis.

The New Zealand Acting Minister of Finance states that the £9,500,000 War Loan has practically all been subscribed. The total of loans raised in New Zealand since the outbreak of war now amount to £45,500,000, and a further loan of £20,000,000 has been authorised during the current financial year.

For perfect tea, pastry and cakes, go to **LIPTON'S ORIENTAL TEA ROOMS AND GARDENS,** Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, the most popular rendez-vous in Egypt. American Bar, Arabesque Room and Restaurant. Music: 5 to 9 p.m.

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"CAPTAIN" WALDBERG'S CAREER.

"A PILLAR OF KULTUR."

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,— The history of Nelken (not Nelkin) as set forth in your issue of the 5th instant, is not strictly correct. The man I knew him well, would venture to make one or two corrections and to add a few particulars to those you have already published, seeing that he was at one time a resident in Egypt, where he became notorious.

He was not a Levantine, but a real German, born and brought up in that country, where his mother was living four years ago and to whom he contributed, sending his little Tina, once he had paid his Greek wife L.T. 500 as per an agreement concluded between them, pending which he was then agreed upon, allowed her L.T.10 a month, a sum that, owing to force of circumstances, he had to cut down each month by dribblets. He did not marry the Greek lady, a worthy, industrious and faithful wife to him, at Constantinople ,but at Athens, 21 years ago.

As to his native country, Germany, he never seemed desirous of returning to it. The opinion of those in his immediate surroundings was that some grave event or other precluded his doing so. Still, his attachment to his mother. One Sunday he told me that it was the anniversary of her birthday and that he was without the wherewithal to send her a congratulatory telegram. This was at the time, when thirteen years after marriage, he was scheming to rid himself of his first wife in favour of a Turkish case, poverty being the chief cause thereof. When reproached for his contemplated act he reply was, "But what am I to do?..." the equivalent of saying, necessity knows no law, he being, as he had resulted, almost friendless without the wherewithal to live and a bankrupt to boot. Still ,unlike most Jews, he was huge liberal with money when he had any. If he met a friend whom he thought was in want, he did not wait to be asked. He was ever ready to share what little he had, spontaneously and willingly, a magnanimous trait in his character, dispicable as he was in many other respects.

It cannot be truthfully said that he ever abandoned his Greek wife. I knew her well, very well, during years, both previous to and after their separation, and much as she had to relate of his doings during their travels and residence in America, Egypt, France and England, she never made such a statement to me. She and little Tina either accompanied Nelken wherever he went or he followed shortly afterwards ,as was the case when he bolted from Cairo to save himself from arrest that had been decided upon for the following day and when he went to Paris, his wife joined him there.

Even after the separation, so mortifying to his first wife, he ,though, an unwelcome visitor, seldom failed to visit her twice a week, frequently taking lunch at her small flat on the ground floor of Freund Khan. He had secured, ostensibly, a position, "à la Turque," but remained solicitous as to her welfare and that of little Tina, whom he loved and who passed Fridays and some Saturdays and Sundays as well with him at his new abode at Panealdi, where he lived with his new Turkish wife of whom he seemed very fond.

From Mr. Wakefield's account of this "Pillar of Kultur," I extract the following.—"At first he found in this Greek wife a little education for which his talents were peculiarly fitted." This is very likely to have been so, the sensual profligate had habits, of which he boasted, were depraved; still, in justice to his first wife, I feel bound to state that this enterprise of his must have long pre-dated his marriage at Athens, an event that was brought about, he concluded and consummated within a week, with early mortifying results for her that I will not enter into now.

As to his occupation, it was that of a blackguard: Nelken-Waldberg was a most unscrupulous and brazen faced personality, who in Egypt, Paris and America, cheated right and left, and became a scoundrel. That he was audacious to a degree must still be remembered by certain Egyptian, American, French, Italian and others, at Cairo, where, going to the telephone, as proprietor of "Les Petites Nouvelles Egyptiennes," he would ring up the secretary of a company, and tell him that he had received a letter reflecting discredit on his company, and that he was being blackmailed which he succeeded and that without having received any such letter whatever. This information was imparted to me by one to whom he was intimately known at Cairo, where he usually went about armed, not knowing what consequences he might have to meet. These blackmailing tactics he attempted to renew at Constantinople, but failed in his endeavour.

As to his being a "Capitaine de la Gendarmerie," it was as an Argentine General that he presented himself on his first arrival and residence at Constantinople. It was in this capacity that he spoke of himself at the "Bible House," Stamboul, where he was prepaid by Doctor Bowen for a auto-biographical notice, promainly felicitous, which owing to the attitude of the then Sultan, Abd Hamid, he was unable to publish but returned the money. Others refused to pay him, amongst the number was Sir Edwin Pears, whose enemy he became. On his return to Constantinople, after the fall of Sultan Hamid, he was no longer a self-dubbed Argentine General but a simple Captain—"un officier de Génie," though the only photograph of him in military attire seen there, was one with a Red Cross. Still, it is said that he once attended the Military School at Buenos Ayres and arrived in Greece years afterwards from the United States of America, where, in partnership with his brother, he was a manufacturer of Bear Grease Mustache. He offered his sword to that country, dressed in a blue and white uniform. A visit of a week or so resulted in his marriage with the daughter, then sixteen years of age, of a Greek officer and who was, it may be added, one of thirty-six children by one father and one mother. This girl, owing to the profligacy and profligolity of her husband, had her trials and that of little Tina, and sleeping in the corner of the printer's workshop at Cairo of her lord and master, whose previous connections with a brothel at Buenos Ayres must have finally come as a revelation to her and to her parents.

I could go much more about this unprincipled versatile Jew, and may do so. Meanwhile, I enclose you a copy of notes that were remitted by me to the Anglo-Egyptian authorities on my arrival here from Constantinople nearly four years ago, considering, as I then did, that unless a troop crossed the Golden Horn a sharp look-out should be kept on one I despised as a maligner of my country and who, though he received thousands sterling as a gratuity from the former Sultan Hamid, did his utmost here in Egypt to afterwards traduce his generous benefactor, who towards him had all along been beneficence itself.

Yours, etc.,
THOMAS PEARS.

Alexandria, June 6.

The National Federation of Foundry Unions has been approached with the object of securing joint action to enforce a proposed 44-hours' working week, as employers are not prepared to accept the proposal.

HIGH-CLASS FOOTWEAR.

Mr. Hornstein, the boot and shoe specialist, of Avenue Boulac, Cairo, is now in receipt of a splendid assortment of high-class Ladies' and Gent's Footwear of the latest styles and sizes, more especially suitable for Summer wear.

RACING IN EGYPT.

HORSE-OWNER'S HARDSHIPS.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,— The Egyptian race horse owner must be a wonderful genius who deserves to figure at the top of the list of all true sports-men for his extraordinary qualities of patience and forbearance. After facing the initial difficulty of knowing whether the horse he has bought will be called an Arab or a country-bred, he finds that his troubles have only just begun. Not that he has to contend with the Secretary in one club, the conditions of the course in another, the handicapper in all cases and, the stewards in some, not to mention the jockeys who, I am told, have occasionally visions of their own which they carry into effect when it suits them so to do.

The case of the race for all horses can be taken as an instance of short sightedness not to say foolishness on the part of the stewards, I have already pointed out that it was early to fix races for Saturdays each month, the 1st day, with the exception of three or four, are not yet fit to race. Still undeterred by the last fiasco, races were advertised for next Saturday and for the 27th, which is the earliest date that might have been chosen. The result is that again only 5 runners have been scraped together only three of which can be considered about half fit. Then someone appears to have with the rainest idea of threatening to reduce the stakes unless there were 6 runners, which seems hardly correct and rather mean since the race was originally advertised without any restrictions as to number of entries. As a consequence we find the entry of one black un-named colt by Kheshen Pasha, who, if rumour is correct, has not so far been out for a trot, and the £5 entrance fee the owner pays can only be a present to the club.

It would be a grand joke if the owners agreed to let this newcomer have a walk over and divide the £200 between them.

Yours etc.,
"PHILIPPUS."

Alexandria, July 9.

A POINT FOR THE Y.M.C.A.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,— May I borrow the publicity of your paper, to ventilate a grievance? I am Zealander, and my country has consistently given lavishly to the above institution for her boys. My case is that to-day at Ismailia the Y.M.C.A. institute there, hardly touches the fringe of a soldier's requirements; yet there is a large field to be exploited. The part that hurts also, is the fact that N.Z. soldiers in Egypt are continually receiving sums of money in Y.M.C.A. booklets, changeable only at Y.M.C.A. premises for goods only. Yet at the only available Institute in Egypt near our N.Z. Base Camp we are limited to the lightest of refreshments as a medium of exchange for our Y.M.C.A. booklets of money tickets. We are only a handful perhaps of the total soldiers in Egypt, but I believe the sum set aside by New Zealand for her Egyptian forces is not so negligible that we should be thus practically ignored. I see a recent item says the sum of £100,000 was subscribed to the Red Triangle in ten days in N.Z., this being merely one occasion among many. I would suggest, then, that the Y.M.C.A. people in Egypt might see their way to remember Ismailia; also that small things like cigarettes, ice creams, and staple food ,if only "eggs cooked," would find a large sale, and go towards removing a soreness that has good grounds for existence.

Yours, etc.,
HOMI TE KAI.

Ismailia.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — I read in your paper of yesterday's issue, under "Personal and Social," a notice regarding Mgr. Photius, Greek Orthodox Patriarch "of Egypt." Kindly note that H.B. the Patriarch of Alexandria and a spiritual pastor not only over the Land of Egypt but over the whole African Continent. The Church of Alexandria now comes after that of Constantinople, and before the Great Schism the Egyptian Pontiff boasted of the pompous title of Apac (i.e. Pope in Coptic) and was equal to the Roman Papa, the "Primus Inter Pares" of Christendom.

The supremacy of Athanasius and Cyril extended even to the Churches in Libya, Nubia and Ethiopia.' Now the Greek Orthodox Congregations in the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Madagascar, Zanzibar and Congo Free State, are regularly visited by Extraordinary Archmandrites of the Church of Alexandria. Tunis, Sfax, Bengha and Tripoli are now one of the Metropolitan Sees of the Church of Alexandria, having its Archbishop in Alexandria. Numerous other Ecclesiastical Stations are also superintended by the said Bishop of Tripoli "Exarch of Libya, Barbaria, Nubia and the Atlantis."

The Patriarch Photius, successor to Sophronius the 4th, claims the most pompous Titles of Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria, Most Devout, Most Divine, Most Holy, Father and Pastor, Pope and Patriarch of the first City of Alexandria, Libya, Pentapolis, Ethiopia and the Land of Egypt, Father of Fathers, Pastor of Pastors, Archbishop of Archbishops, Patriarch of the Apostle and Ecumenical Judge." He claims to be the Successor of St. Mark, the Apostle of the Evangelist, and H.B. Anba Cyril the 5th, Copt. Ethnarch of the National Egyptian Church, shares same honours. Greeks and Copts recently parted after the Monophysitical Disputes of the 5th and 6th Centuries and now Cyril the 5th, encroaches on Demetrius the 2nd, claims to the title of:— "Pope and Patriarch of the Great City of Alexandria, Antioch, the West Pentapolis, Ethiopia, Nubia, all Libya, all Africa and the Apostleship of St. Mark."

Yours, &c.,
THEO. S.D. MOSCONAS.

Cairo, July 5.

WHEN WILL THE WAR END ?

WHAT IS "DURATION OF THE WAR?"

That the great number of wars all arising from the outbreak nearly four years ago will come to an end some time or other may be taken as an accepted proposition, but there will be serious difficulties in knowing when the war will come to an end, and so the House of Commons decided last month that a Select Committee is to be appointed to report on the definition of the phrase "for the duration of the war" which appears in many legislative enactments passed since the autumn of 1914; and to report also on the expediency of prolonging after the war is over the existence of Statutes in which the phrase occurs. Mr. Charles Roberts will probably be chairman of the Committee.

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"ACCORDING TO KHAMESA."

THE HISTORY OF THE BLUE AFREET.

To Aly, the little water-carrier, the thing was alive, divine. It hung in the doorway of the Great House, an enormous and brilliant paper Dragon adorned with roses and flying storks, a blue divinity swaying to every idle breeze. To the children who lived in the Blue House the blue Japanese kite was already ancient history, but to Aly the little water-carrier it was "the Afreet," a thing mysteriously alive and evilly divine.

He came every morning soon after dawn to the Great House riding a camel — a very old and surly camel that growled and bubbled as it went. As he rode he swayed lightly in its stride, he played his queer little native flute, so that always when I woke at the Great House, in the cool mistiness of the early summer morning, my waking dreams were threaded with its fragile melodies. Two drum-shaped tins of water were swung on the scarlet saddle-cloth and these formed a perch for the child, who squatted there like nothing else but a little brown monkey, wearing on his head, like the helmet of some mediaeval knight, a shining tin funnel which he used when pouring the water into the row of earthen goolahs waiting for him in the verandah. For there was no water supply at the Great House and the water was unpleasantly brackish, and Aly the little flute-player, the gaffir's small nephew, was our link with the rainless Nile, a mile or more away, and his reedy music meant that our slender store of drinking water was safe for another day at least.

I used to look over the edge of the upper verandah, where I slept during the hot summer months, and see the unique picture of my friend of the sea glittering under the early sunshine, and the faintly curving morning, yellow-blue, softly breathing the dead pallid of the drifted sands and the splendid green and russet of the palm trees bowed already under their ripening crown of dates. The child's vivid blue galabieh and the camel's scarlet trappings made a pleasant splash of colour against the faded morning hills, and all about him the thin crying of his reed pipe wove an enchantment that seemed part of the eager passionate spirit of the slowly waking Eastern day.

Every time he passed the Blue Dragon used to notice that Aly salaamed to it quite seriously as it hung there, audaciously bright and splendid, drawing the very soul out of him with covetous longing. Not all my attempts at gaining anything from him beyond a shy "Saidah" were in vain, until, one morning returning from my early ride, I found the old gaffir mercilessly beating my poor little flute-player for having forgotten some trivial errand he had set him overnight. The fact that I saved him then from further injury made continually recurring sums of money in Y.M.C.A. booklets, changeable only at Y.M.C.A. premises for goods only. Yet at the only available Institute in Egypt near our N.Z. Base Camp we are limited to the lightest of refreshments as a medium of exchange for our Y.M.C.A. booklets of money tickets. We are only a handful perhaps of the total soldiers in Egypt, but I believe the sum set aside by New Zealand for her Egyptian forces is not so negligible that we should be thus practically ignored. I see a recent item says the sum of £100,000 was subscribed to the Red Triangle in ten days in N.Z., this being merely one occasion among many. I would suggest, then, that the Y.M.C.A. people in Egypt might see their way to remember Ismailia; also that small things like cigarettes, ice creams, and staple food ,if only "eggs cooked," would find a large sale, and go towards removing a soreness that has good grounds for existence.

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DRAMA OF DUMB SOLDIER.

SISTER'S PATHETIC DISCOVERY OF MISSING BROTHER.

Poignantly pathetic was the meeting last month—arising out of the recent exchange of prisoners with Germany—of a wounded soldier and his sister in an Eastend hospital a few days ago.

In 1915 a North Lambeth family lost all trace of their only son, who was fighting on the western front. He was posted as missing, and his parents, after the long silence, presumed that he was dead.

On Friday, June 7, his sister visited the hospital to see a wounded friend, when she noticed at the end of the ward a soldier in a chair, who, whenever she looked towards him, jerked his head. She naturally thought he was suffering from shell shock, and paid no further attention until a nurse came and said he wished to see her.

She went to the invalid, who, she was surprised to find, was her missing brother. He had lost both his arms and legs and was dumb; hence the reason for the intervening years of silence.

The "Figaro," describing the work of the Portuguese troops on the western front, says that during the latest offensive they contributed much towards arresting the advance of the enemy. The Portuguese military leaders have made a close study of French military matters, and they are excellent trainers of men.

In the Australian Parliament Mr. McGrath, a Labour member, has denounced all "Bolshevist-like" attempts to weaken Australia's whole-hearted co-operation in the war.

CURES STOMACH TROUBLE OR MONEY BACK.
INSTANT RELIEF GUARANTEED.
Recently a well-known authority on the treatment of stomach troubles, who has claimed that practically all stomach trouble is due to acidity, decided to put his theory to the test. Every sufferer from stomach troubles was told to take half a teaspoonful of pure *bisurated* magnesia in a little water immediately after eating or whenever pain was felt. The test completely vindicated his theory, for immediate relief was indicated in each of the first hundred reports received, showing conclusively that the trouble had been due to stomach acid which, as is well known by all physicians, is instantly neutralised by *bisurated* magnesia. Since making this test, the well-known chemists who have specialised in preparing pure *bisurated* magnesia exclusively for stomach use have arranged to place in every package of genuine *bisurated* magnesia a guarantee contract of satisfaction or money back—proof positive of their belief that nearly every so-called dyspeptic is really suffering from acidity—and their confidence that genuine *bisurated* magnesia will instantly neutralise stomach acid, stop food fermentation, and cure all stomach troubles caused thereby. Always look for the name "*Bisurated*" on the label and the guarantee contract inside the package.

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