EGYPT'S PLAGUES.

THE FLY CAMPAIGN.

The Bulletin of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology contains an article on "Some practical methods adopted for the control of Flies in the Egyptian Campaign," by Capt. J. Davidson, in which the following is a brief outline:—

Flies are present in Egypt practically all the year round, though they are less numerous during the height of the hot weather and again about December. Since they are the means of spreading diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid and cholera, it is of the utmost importance that they should be vigorously suppressed. Flies of the house-fly type (Musca) are the most troublesome, although bluebottles (Calliphora), greenbottles (Lucilia) and Sarcophaga are found, these last being often met with in the desert in small clumps of palm trees.

During 1916-17 the work of the sanitary section consisted in the special treatment of breeding places and the destruction of flies by spraying poisoned bait, traps, etc. The three favourite breeding places for flies of the house-fly type are (1) horse manure, (2) accumulation of camp and cook-house refuse, (3) latrine trenches; those of the bluebottle type prefer putrefying animal matter.

The disposal of horse manure was effected in three ways: by close packing and spraying, by incineration, and by spreading it to make manure roads. The first of these is specially suited to a large camp, a site about 2,000 yards long and 10 yards wide, separated by a strip 2 yards wide. All horse manure and burnt refuse from incinerators was deposited daily on this site, the areas being used alternately, and the loaf being immediately raked level. In the late afternoon this surface as thoroughly drenched with a rough emulsion made of crude tar oil, or green oil when available, mixed with water in an adjacent 300-gallon tank, and applied by means of watering cans at the rate of 1 gal. per square yard. It was then covered with large pieces of sacking sewn together, though this was later discontinued as being unnecessary. A number of empty oil-drums were placed upside down round the heaps, the bottoms, which were made concave like saucers, being filled every morning with a solution of 1 per cent. sodium arsenite in water containing 12 per cent. glycerine and 5 per cent sugar. Flies were killed in such enormous numbers by this means that at the end of a few days hardly any remained, the treatment of the manure preventing further breeding. The wagons bringing the daily load were driven on to the heaps and unloaded and driven off from the other end, thus helping to pack the heaps tightly. Two such dumps lasted about four weeks, being then about 5 ft. high.

This method not being possible in the case of mobile units out in the desert, owing to the scattered camps and the difficulty of transport, it was necessary to have recourse to incineration, each unit being made responsible for burning its own manure. Owing to the large amount of sand mixed with it, it was found necessary to sift it before burning, the siftings, which contained a quantity of each day's manure, being put into a deep pit and liberally treated daily with crude tar oil. It is also necessary to dispose entirely of each day's manure, any left in the neighbourhood of the incinerators affording a suitable breeding ground for flies.

During the hot weather the making of manure roads is a satisfactory method of manure disposal, especially when carefully supervised. On a road track into the desert each day's manure was laid on successive sections and spread to a depth of one inch, four days being allowed to elapse before each section received a second covering; in this way a good road of dry pulverised manure was made.

The methods that have proved most satisfactory for the incineration of excreta, for the disposal of camp and cook-house refuse, for the disposal of dead animals, and for the destruction of adult flies by spraying, the use of tanglefoot fly wires, fly traps and poisoned bait are fully described and illustrated by figures and plans.

Mr. Palmer, custodian of alien property in the United States, reported to the House Appropriations Committee that German property in the United States still to be taken over will total $300,000,000. On that basis, he said, from $700,000,000 to $800,000,000 worth of enemy property will have been seized within the next two or three months.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

THE COTTON SACK CRISIS.

The "Mokattam."— (From a letter to the editor, a propos of the cotton bag crisis).—

The question is too urgent to be dealt with hesitatingly in administrative quarters. The Government is required, rightly and fairly, to stand against those who have monopolised the sack trade and from their minds up their minds to raise the price to an excessive limit. The Government has purchased all the cotton crop of this year and fixed its prices in accordance with the prevailing circumstances. When it fixed the rates, empty sacks were being sold at the rate of P.T. 15 per sack; but now not only sacks have become twice as dear but also the rates of transport both by railway and on the Nile have grown to an unprecedented degree, the price of hemp threads and other requirements has become considerably higher, and it is expected that ginning fees will grow dearer as well. The rates which were properly fixed by the authorities for cotton at that time are no longer fit with the increasing cost of the above mentioned things. If the Government is determined not to raise the price of cotton any more it should by no means allow monopolists to act freely and cause considerable inconvenience and loss to cultivators. The only remedy which will solve the sack problem satisfactorily is the purchase on the part of the government of a big quantity of empty sacks as quickly as possible from India, and the sale of the same to cultivators at cost price including the cost of transport. We assure the Government that the difficulty will be solved only if it makes a declaration to this effect.....

THE OIL CRISIS.

The "Basair."— We learn that the price of cotton seed oil has risen so excessively that the "English" variety of it, which used to be sold formerly at the rate of P.T. 5 per oke, is now being sold at P.T. 30 the oke! Our readers may remember that the price fixed by the tariff for this kind of oil is P.T. 6 3/4 an oke; but as a result of the scarcity of the commodity the price has risen to the present extraordinary degree. This state of things of course annoys the poorer classes of the community, who use oil in cooking.... It has been stated recently that the Supplies Control Board intends to fix new prices for oil on the 16th inst. and make oil manufacturers produce new oil for the country with a view to removing the present crisis. We hope this will turn out to be true.

THE COIN CRISIS.

The "Ahram."— The shortage of silver coins is becoming more and more conspicuous. The Government has reduced the difficulty by issuing the P.T. 10 paper, but the public needs the smaller coins more than it needs the dollars and half dollars; so it is worth the while of the Ministry of Finance to take out such small pieces from its treasury for public transactions. As for those who are hoarding silver coins, they must understand that what they hoard is not particularly precious. The paper money is only a debt on the government treasury and the Egyptian Government is one of the richest Governments, so it is quite safe to use this sort of currency, whereas the value of silver contained in the silver coins is much less than the currency. The Egyptian dollar which is officially worth P.T. 20 is not worth more than P.T. 14, taken as a piece of silver. The silver used in the country amounts to about L.E. 8,000,000 and the country does not necessarily need more than half the amount, and if the Government were to make more silver coins under the present circumstances it would give the country too many of those coins with the result that, when the present crisis comes to an end and those who now hoard dollars find no further advantage in hoarding, the abundance of silver money may bring about confusion in public transactions and the Government may find it necessary to transform a big amount of its currency into silver at a loss. We have already seen that the use of L.E. 3,000,000 in silver once caused some trouble in financial establishments, and both the banks and the Postal Administration complained of the abundance of silver money. But as long as people find pleasure in hoarding silver without knowing that it is not worth thing, it is necessary for the Ministry of Finance to give practical help to trade by producing small coins to facilitate business.

The "Ahram."— The main reason for which the P.T. 10 note was created, was to remove the difficulty which people experienced in procuring small coins, but now the matter is reversed, for we see that the use of the new paper money has increased the difficulty. Some merchants have begun to hoard silver coins for no other purpose than to profit by exchanging money. They change P.T. 2 1/2 for changing the L.E. 1 bank note for silver coins. (As a fact money-changers charge P.T. 4).

"Wady el Nil."— (From an article on the same subject).— The absence of small coins—the piastres and half piastres—is of a nature to make purchase very difficult. It is curious to see that people are so fond of metallic coins that they prefer to have them rather than notes to the same value. It is feared that the present crisis will grow worse if the Government does not take precautionary measures to regulate the situation by producing sufficient amounts of silver and nickel coins for public use.

SAMPLE OF CHARITY ORGANISATION.

The "Express."— (From an article criticising the Islamic Relief Society—"El Moussaa" —organised in Alexandria for succouring the poor.)— This benevolent society has received many donations during this year, including a generous gift from the Sultan, and according to the desires of the contributors, it ought to give pecuniary relief to the poor in these grave days. But instead of hearing thanks on the part of the society regarding its deeds, we hear complaints and criticisms. Many of those who resorted to this society recently for charity received disappointment and in certain cases were driven out most unkindly. The poor ask about the relief system adopted by the Moussaa and the rules it follows in giving grants in aid—both monthly and temporary—to those who deserve real support, but the society gives no true reply, and we cannot see that it has an organised system or fixed rules for doing the task entrusted to it. We hear that the society is itself poor but the lists of donations contributed to it, which appear in the press every now and then, show that it is in a good position. The members say, "We give monthly payments to numerous families," and we would like to point out that among those families there are people who need no charitable payments, for they have relatives who are able to give them the necessary help, while others have nobody to care for them. It is curious to note that Moussaa is more like a freemasons institution than a charitable organisation inasmuch as it keeps its work secret, for besides the brief account it gives annually of its admission nothing appears to the public of its internal work. What is most criticisable in its defects is that its powers are held by one man, the vice-president. Those who deal with the society remark that he is all to all. He is the president, the vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer, and he is the executive committee, and nothing can be done against his will. The president is a good gentleman, but his influence is overwhelmed by that of the wakeel who has held his present position since the organisation of the society about six years ago..... It is necessary for the work to have a particular system for the distribution of grants among the poor and it may be necessary also to reorganise the executive committee according to the rules of free voting at the time of election, so that the society's powers may not be always confined to a certain member.....

WHY NOT MORE FISH?

The "Ahram."— Why should not we have more fish in our market? No country has more fish in its seas, rivers, canals, and lakes than Egypt has, and we think that no country in the world has neglected fishing in these days more than we do here. The Ministry of Agriculture states that Egypt's cattle has greatly decreased in number, and the Customs Administration assures us that the live stock has ceased to be imported from abroad, the price of meat is growing excessively dear, and the high prices of fish give one to understand that fishing has been considerably neglected. We would like to attract the attention of the Supplies Control Board to this important question. If fish were abundant in Egypt people would use it instead of meat. Japan relies essentially on fish and rice, and Ceylon and the Maldive islands scarcely ever meat in their market, and the population thereof scarcely use it. Not only have these countries which are accustomed to using fish as a diet, devoted particular efforts to fishing, but France also has given special attention to the improvement of fisheries with a view to producing more fish for the country so that people may use it instead of meat... Why should not Egypt follow the same example in these circumstances while we are running short of live stock? The Coast Guards Administration controls the fisheries of Egypt, and the Ministry of Finance draws up regulations for it, but where are the officials who carefully supervise the fish trade and what are the measures taken for increasing fish and encouraging fishing. Even Alexandria may find itself without fish for some days, because considerable difficulties arise in the way of fishermen. Last year there was great complaint on the part of fishermen but nobody seems to have listened to their question. How far is this state of things to continue?...

A LIBERAL'S PIOUS WISH.

The "Akhbar."— On the first day of the Ramadan Bairam, Mohamed Wahid Bey sent the following telegram to the leading journals in London: "On the occasion of their fete the Moslems of Egypt on this sacred day beseech Almighty God to give full victory to the honourable British nation and its esteemed Allies."

THE OMDEH QUESTION.

The "Watan."— (A telegram from Sohag). As a result of administrative investigation into the attitude of omdehs, it has been decided to suspend four omdehs of villages in the markas of Girga. The suggestion was made by the markas and approved of by the moudirieh. The omdeh of Hurreizat has asked for permission to hand his post over to the authorities, but the enquiry opened on the quarrel which took place recently between the omdeh and his brothers is still proceeding.....

THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORT.

"Wady el Nil."— It is stated that wheat which now comes to the Cairo wharves of Rod el Farag and Attar el Nebi in small quantities from the ports of Egypt, is again being sold at higher rates than those fixed by the tariff. According to a contemporary some of the cereal merchants complain of the difficulty of transporting grain to the capital by railway, and state that if they order certain waggons to be used for that purpose, the railway authorities hardly answers the request in less than a week of a fortnight. This difficulty coupled with that of utilising Nile boats for the transportation of grain from Upper Egypt explain the reason why wheat is being sent down to Cairo and other northern districts including Alexandria, in small quantities in these days... We therefore ask the Supplies Control Board to give special attention to the question of transport. If the merchants' complaint is true in this respect, then it will be necessary for the authorities to make some arrangements with the railway administration to improve the situation.....

WORLD GROWING WARMER.

AMERICAN SCIENTIST'S THEORY.

An American scientist has stated that the world is growing warmer. His reasons for his conviction are mainly three: (1) As a result of research and exploration it is known that Antarctic ice, although covering areas several times larger than all other ice-covered areas, is decreasing in extent and depth. Again, the same succession of geological climates has prevailed in Antarctic as in other latitudes. This evidence is, we are told, corroborated by the "impressive evidence" of the comparatively recent uncovering of temperate zone glaciers and the progressive retreat of the snow-line to higher elevations in temperate and tropical latitudes and towards the Poles at sea-level, being far greater in Arctic than in Antarctic regions.

Our scientist then draws these conclusions:—

1. That the disappearance of the Ice Age is an active present process.

2. That the rates and lines of retreat are and have been determined by exposure to solar energy and the temperatures established thereby, and by the difference in the specific heat of the land and water hemispheres.

3. This retreat marks a rise in mean surface temperature along these new lines, manifestly due to recently inaugurated exposure to solar radiation and also the inauguration of the trapping of heat derived from such exposure, which process is cumulative and has a maximum not yet reached.

The prediction is then ventured that the same energies which recently converted the glacial beds of Canada into productive grain fields will "in time" make of the tundras of to-day grainfields of the future. For the present, though, it will be as well to get on with our allotments.

Voluntary efforts to organise in Australia a corps of women on similar lines to the W.A.A.C. in Great Britain have already met with considerable success. Practically every class of woman worker is represented among those who have volunteered. Subsequently the Government will be approached to take over the organisation and training of the corps.

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BOXING.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP TOURNAMENT.

The Tournaments organised by the Officers and N.C.O. Boxing Committee at the Prisoners of War Camp, Heliopolis, continue to arouse much interest among followers of the sport around Cairo, and last week-end's event provided excellent entertainment for a large crowd.

Below are details of the evening's programme, interest in which was fully maintained from start to finish.

Some specially interesting events will be announced in the "Egyptian Gazette" in a few days' time. Following are the results:—

The Rounds Bantam Weight Contest:—Sgt. Porter (Command Depot) v. L/C. Wise (38th R.F.).

First Round.—Both men fought hard and fast throughout, and at the close of a very exciting round, in which both boxers showed plenty of footwork, and cleverness, Porter gained the honours.

Second Round.—Wise commenced with a right to the jaw then the pair mixed it freely. Wise planted his left to the face, Porter replying with a hard right uppercut, which got home. Both men now fought vigorously, Porter showing up with a nice long left, which seldom missed its objective, and following up with a "right cross" did excellent work, the round ending in his favour.

Third Round.—Porter started off by landing his right to the jaw. The pair now danced around, seeking an opening. Wise being the first to get home with two lefts to the face. Porter landed the left a moment later, then planted his right to the jaw. The pair now in holds, broke at once, being cheered by the crowd for their clean work; they fought hard to the close. Even Round.

Fourth Round.—Porter led off with the right to jaw which missed. Wise doing the same. Porter now landed a beautiful straight left, which sent his man backwards across the ring; he then swung a hard right to the jaw, but this was partly blocked by Wise, who planted left and right to the head as the bell sounded. Even Round.

Fifth Round.—Wise at once forced the pace, getting home twice to the jaw with his right. Porter now reached the face with straight lefts, stemming his man repeatedly. Wise shot a hard right to the stomach, then the pair came to holds, but broke immediately. Wise then drove his plucky opponent before him, landing hard and often to the close. Wise's Round.

Sixth Round.—Wise, eager to force the pace, landed left to head, and right to the body, forcing Porter before him. The pace was now terrific, and Wise rained telling blows on his game opponent, who could do very little in return, Wise winning this round easily.

Seventh Round.—This was also hotly contested, by both, each landing hard and often. Porter was sent down for the count of eight, and looked very rocky when he rose. Nevertheless, he fought back gamely, only to be dropped again, for a further count, by a "right", which landed squarely on the jaw, the bell coming to his relief. Wise's Round.

Eighth Round.—Porter, looking much the worse for wear, landed two lefts in quick succession. Wise, swinging wildly at this stage, missed many fine chances to finish off his man, who afterwards recovered, and fought back splendidly. Wise again cut loose, dealing out very punishing blows to a worthy opponent. Porter, now looking very groggy, after taking a considerable amount of punishment, was finally dropped by a broken thumb, Wise being returned the winner of a splendid bout.

Both winner and loser were given a great ovation on leaving the ring.

Six Rounds Bantam Weight Contest:—Pte. Hughes (M.G.C.) v. Pte. Newman (School of Instruction):—

This was a very good bout, lasting the full distance. Newman was sent to the boards in the third round; but regained his feet, and fought hard to the end, when Hughes, clever little boxer, received the decision, after a very interesting and clean bout.

Six Rounds Welter Weight Contest:—L/Cpl. Hampson (— R.) v. Pte. Meredith (M.G.C.):—

Both were well matched for size, and gave a rattling display, the bout going the whole distance. At the close the referee declared a draw, a decision which was well received by all present.

Six Rounds Light Weight Contest:—Sgt. Oakes (S. of I.) v. Dvr. Dyer (Command Depot):—

These men put up a good fight throughout. Oakes, much the elder man, gave a splendid exhibition of ringcraft and cleverness. The able manner in which he slipped his opponent's leads, drew applause from all present. At the end of a good bout, Oakes was given a well earned decision, which was approved by all present.

The Ten Rounds Contest, between Cpl. Beaumont, and Pte. Vaughan, did not take place owing to the former being sick. But it is hoped to bring these men together in the near future.

CHALLENGES.

Alan Porter (Salford) v. Charlie Webb, Lightweight Champion of Egypt. Webb, whose fine form in his contest with Sgt. Morry Steinberg, from which he emerged the lightweight championship of Egypt, as recently reported in the "Egyptian Gazette" has been challenged by Alan Porter, of Salford, and further particulars will appear in these columns in due course.

Sgt. Christian (School of Instruction) v. Pte. G. Cohen (Middlesex Regt.).

It is hoped the above men, both of whom have big reputations and following, will meet at an early date, when a rare contest will be witnessed.

These boxing tournaments which at present are the only meetings of the kind at Cairo, will be continued, they are under the capable management of Lt. Fulton, Hon. Secretary; Lt. Bush, Time-keeper; Lt. Mann, Referee — with R.S.M. Gilbert, Sgt. Treeth, and Sgt. Rice assisting in various capacities the meetings are uniformly well conducted. The Band of the — Regt. by kind permission of the C.O. plays a selection of music each evening.

The American Red Cross has arranged for the furnishing of life, health, and accident insurance to its own workers abroad who are not eligible for the benefits of Government war-risk insurance.

The Hungarian Premier, Dr. Wekerle, has announced that he will move at the next plenary sitting of the Hungarian Parliament a resolution proposing the claims relating to women's franchise in the Hungarian Franchise Reform Bill.

The Secretary of the United States Department of Labour has written to the presidents of colleges and universities asking for students to assist in war crop production on farms this summer.

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ALEXANDRIA RACES.

Following are the entries for Saturday July 20, beginning at 2.45 p.m.:—

Anfouchy Handicap, L.E.150, 5 furl. For B class Countybreds.

Mr. A.A. Cipriani	Freyga	9. 2
Mr. A.J. Michaelides	Grayling	9. 0
Mr. P. Belleni	Satinette	8.12
Mr. R.R. Beard	Sardanapal	8.10
His Highness The Sultan	Sabiha	8. 7
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Maamoul	8. 2

Mehalla Handicap, L.E.100, 5 furl. For 4th class Arabs.

Zaki Bey Sabry	Fakous	9. 9
Khalil Pasha Khayat	Sahab	9. 8
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Ameer	9. 7
Mrs. R.R. Beard	Garboub	8. 2
Mr. P. Monferrato	Machiavel	8. 0
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Farida	8. 2
Aly Bey Sharif El Din	Bakhtiar	8. 8
Mr. Alex. Asimacopoulo	Kleber	8. 2
The Sidi Bishr Stables	Mabsout	7.12
Mrs. Hugh Thomas	Cambal	7. 8

Amria Handicap, L.E.200, 6 fur. For A class Countybreds.

Khalil Pasha Khayat	Aurelius	9.10
Mr. Nicolas Nazaretian	Temeraire	8. 4
Mirza Bey Abdel Gawad	Cedar	8. 0
Mahmoud Bey Sabet	Danillo	7.12
Mrs. R.E. More	K.I.	7. 8
Mr. R.J. Hughes	Perdos	7. 4

Mazarita Handicap, L.E.120, 7 fur. For 3rd and 4th class Arab Ponies.

George Bey Lotfallah	Bushra	9.12
Mr. A.A. Cipriani	Mideffer	9.11
Mr. A.J. Michaelides	Abu Tapam	9.10
Mrs. H.F. Curtis	Salem	9. 8
Mr. A. Schinasi	Kaid	9. 7
The Ramleh Stables	Shalan	9. 6
Mr. Chester-Master	Beyrout	9. 5
Mr. J. Goar	Cheriff	8. 6
Mr. F.O. Dand	Mushab	8. 5
Messrs. T. Ades & J. Nabetian	Assed Kerim	8. 5
Mr. Masfred	Kawkab	8. 4
Mr. R.R. Beard	Paddy	8. 3
Mr. P. Monferrato	Verdun	8. 1
Mr. M. Dimitriou	Hadeed	7. 4

Mezra Matrouh Handicap, L.E.200, 6 fur. For Arabs.

Mr. P. Belleni	Veinard	10. 5
Mr. Ch. Baehler	Sawab	9. 0
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Abou Dahab	8. 5
Mr. A. Schinasi	Adwan	8. 1
Mirza Bey Abdel Gawad	Agadir	8.10
Mr. E.W. Sheffield	Saklawi	7.10
George Bey Lotfallah	Salhieh	7. 5

Nouzha Handicap, L.E.150, 7 fur. For 2nd class Arabs.

Messrs. Cadagali	Obeyan	9. 6
Messrs. J. Tamvaco & R. Tuby	Joujou	9. 4
Mr. P. Clarke	Meteor	9. 2
Mr. E.W. Sheffield	Predicateur	9. 1
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Titan	9. 5
Mr. A. Gabriel	Bashgar	8.12
Mr. P. Belleni	Patsy	8. 9
Mr. H.T.L. Young	Seven Barrows	8. 8
Mr. Shepheard	Abu Kashisban	8. 8
Mr. A. Sevastopoulo	Dahman	8. 6
Mirza Bey Abdel Gawad	Fath-el-Bab	8. 5
Mr. M. Dimitriou	Ibn Mamdouh	8. 5
Zaki Bey Sabri	Sami	8. 1
Mr. Vassos Vassiliou	Eole	7. 5

Saba Pasha Handicap, L.E.120, Once round. For 3rd class Arabs.

Mr. R. R. Beard	Kaba	9.11
The Koubbeh Stables	Raslan	9. 8
The Syrian Stables	Rubis	9. 4
Khalil Pasha Khayat	Hermit	9. 3
Sheikh Mohamed Mogelly	Rataan	9. 2
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Assis	8.10
Ishak Pasha Hussein	Halabi	8. 2
George Bey Lotfallah	Shahraman	8. 7
Mirza Bey Abdel Gawad	Ardashir	8. 5
Mr. A. A. Cipriani	Abu Kheyaha	8. 5

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Fine	,,	18	,,	,,
Divan	,,	13	,,	,,