EGYPTIAN COTTON EXPORT.

GRIEVANCE OF THE SMALLER FIRMS.

We have received ample proofs of the discontent that exists among the smaller cotton exporting firms on the subject of the provisional allocation that has lately been made by the Cotton Control Commission, which was dealt with in an article that we published in our issue of Wednesday last. The regulation that the firms should be strictly rationed as to their cotton exports in accordance with their exports during former years has evoked considerable criticism on the grounds that it is unwarranted by the conditions of the market and that it runs counter to the principles of fair play and of equity. The smaller export firms, who are all seriously affected by this system of rationing, are foreigners and they conclude that such restrictions are a departure from the principles that have ever been the policy of the English system of trading, which has always been characterised by fair play for all, since such a regulation seriously affects the great bulk of the cotton exporting firms to the advantage of those few among the magnates of the cotton exporters. The latter will thus be able to obtain control of the entire exporting business since the spinners will naturally apply to those few favoured big firms, who, in virtue of the amount of their exports during former years, will be enabled to satisfy any demands that are made to them, while the smaller firms will be prohibited for the selfsame reason from satisfying their clients.

The effects of this system are becoming more and more noticeable. When the control of the trade was first brought into effect the exporters on finding that they were obliged to work at greatly reduced profits, automatically divided into two separate parties. On the one hand there were those who took a pessimistic view of the new state of things and argued that either the spinner would have to pay them a very profitable commission if he wanted to buy through them or otherwise he would have to go elsewhere. On the other hand, the optimists accepted the situation by believing that they would tide over their troubles by doing as big a business as possible in order to make good the sacrifices that they were called upon to make by the quantity of their turnover. Unfortunately, owing to the new system of rationing, these optimists now acknowledge that they have been deceived, for they now know that there is no need for them either to display any courage or trying to face the new situation or to make any sacrifices by working harder, since henceforth they will be stopped from trying to make good their losses by extending the scope of their business operations. The hindrance to freedom of commerce that this regulation has brought about will force all the trade to increases its demands and thus it will be the spinner, whose interest were to be safeguarded, who will have to pay the piper in the end.

We are sure that the Egyptian Government will be surprised to see the discontent to which this action of the Cotton Control Commission has given rise, and that this vexatious regulation, that has given birth to all this criticism, will be repealed as soon as possible. A fair field and no favouritism should be the motto of the Commission and all their actions should be guided by the cardinal principle that everything should be done to show the trade that their only object is to deal fairly and squarely with all the interests under their control, and that everybody should be permitted to gain their living with as few restrictions as possible.

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY.

During August, 937 readers used the European section of the Library and consulted 1,064 works in 1,337 volumes. In the Arabic section there were 678 readers who consulted 750 works in 932 volumes, making totals of 1,615 readers of 1,814 works in 2,260 volumes. The 1,064 European works were in the following languages:— 958 French, 64 English, 23 German; 14 Italian and 5 Greek.

On behalf of the British interned in the Bernese Oberland, Captain Glass presented a message to M. Michel, National Councillor for the people of the Oberland. It states how much appreciated is the friendship and hospitality of the people of Interlaken. "We assure you," continues the message, "that the British Government and people will never forget all you have done for our poor prisoners of war."

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THE MILITARY SITUATION.

A DOUBLE VICTORY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

(By our Military Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 4.

We are just beginning to see the results of Monday's double victory west of Cambrai and north of Soissons. Locally at least the German army defending Cambrai in the Hindenburg line and the Drocourt-Queant switch, also known as the Wotan line, has been routed. Pursuit is now in full swing and it is hardly possible to keep pace from hour to hour with the changing situation on the battlefield. Yesterday evening's German wireless says that "Monday was quiet between the Somme and the Scarpe, and movements initiated the night before have proceeded according to programme." That is perfectly true; the day was quiet in so far as the Germans had ceased to resist and the movements initiated the night before consisted of a rapid pursuit by the British forces, in which all German rearguard elements which and failed to make their escape were soon captured. The British general line at the time of the Douglas Haig's latest despatch had advanced an average of six miles between the Somme and Péronne. The Hindenburg line has been captured to a point two miles east of Queant, the Wotan line has been left far behind, between Bussy and Cléry-Sur-Somme our troops have taken the right flank of the new Brebieres-Moeuvres switch in their stride and are now working along both sides of the main Hindenburg line towards its junction at Bapaume with the remaining portion of the new switch. Prisoners so far captured number about 15,000 for Monday to Tuesday morning, but the British have reserved to themselves the right to add to their number. The Franco-American victory in the south has not as yet produced such spectacular effects as Sir Douglas Haig's victory in the north. We know now that during Monday afternoon General Mangin's troops succeeded in crossing the Soissons-Laon railway and in establishing a foothold on the Vregny plateau, north-east of Soissons. Monday's operations yielded the French 1,200 prisoners and the menace to the rearward communications of the German lines on the Vesle and on the Aisne is becoming steadily more pronounced. Aided by the configuration of the ground and stimulated by the knowledge that the positions they are defending are of vital importance, the German defence has here been most desperate. The steep precipices facilitate the use of tanks, except in the valley of the Ailette, and each plateau has to be carried by assault, practically by escalading.

A great part in Monday's operations was played by the French cavalry, who maintained a constant bombardment on the crossings of the Aisne and Ailette with contact machines operating with the French infantry practically assumed the role played in the tanks in Picardy. Bring and Herne's operations in parts from American Headquarters make it clear that, though the Germans are still clinging to their positions on the Vesle and the Aisne, the High Command has recognised defeat. Everywhere behind the German lines the villages and German supply depots are burning like torches, a clear indication that they are being withdrawn. It is not too much to say that the whole German line from Rheims to the sea is in a state of disorganisation. Lens has been evacuated and the British patrols are making their way into the town. In what remains of the Armentieres salient Enstree and Wulverghem have fallen, the rearguards withdrawing, moreover, that, without any regular offensive, the British patrols have taken possession of German guns besides capturing numerous prisoners.

All the military critics are at work pointing out that if Cambrai falls, then Douai will be threatened, and if Douai falls, then all the German positions southward to St. Quentin and the Forest of St. Gobain will become untenable. All these statements are perfectly true, but the main thing to remember is that when the German army has met with decisive defeat the Allied armies will be able to attack where they like and when they like. The German army is now reduced to such straits that it has been impossible even to throw the other German cavalry into the line to fight as infantry. Thus in Monday's battle on the Picardy north of Amiens a part of the German line was held by an extemporised brigade consisting of Cuirassiers of the Guard, the Emperor's "Body Regiment" of the Cuirassiers, and the 5th Hussars. Prisoners' statements have also disclosed that when it became necessary to despatch reinforcements to this front a certain division leaving Metz on August 12 was entrained with the distance of 140 miles by forced marches and was thrown into the line without a moment's rest. The fact that a whole division urgently required as reinforcements could be brought only by route march affords a telling indication of the state to which German railway transport has been reduced by the pressure of traffic and the attentions of Allied aircraft.

There is every indication that the German army is breaking under the strain. The next army is breaking under the strain. The next few days will show whether it will be possible for the Germans to rally somewhere near their present line, or whether we are at the beginning of a general withdrawal from Northern France. Meanwhile the German Emperor has ordered prayers for speedy victory to be said in all churches throughout Germany, while the fact that the Rhine fortresses are hastily being put in a state of preparedness, will afford the German population the best indications of the real views of the German High Command as to the imminence of speedy victory.

POLITICAL EVENTS OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST

The pressure of dealing with current victories from day to day has prevented us from giving our usual monthly summaries of the events of the past month, political, military and naval. The following are some of the most important political events which have been bearing in mind at the time when the German military machine is beginning to break down. On August 1, soldiers of the Bulgarian army shot the officers of the guard over the German Legation and tore down the arms over the Turkish Legation. The attitude of the Bulgarian nation has steadily become more and more hostile to her allies, Germany and Turkish. At the end of the month King Ferdinand of Bulgaria had a secret interview with the Emperor William at Nauthem, at which not even the Prime Ministers of either country were present. The Emperor William afterwards bestowed decorations upon the Bulgarian plenipotentiary at German Headquarters, upon the entire suite of King Ferdinand, and even upon his two daughters. A statement was issued to the effect that the conversation of the two august allies had been based upon the inviolability of the alliance, and also the firm will of both parties to persist in the war until the final victory. If the alliance were really so unshakably firm, why all this fuss? Though King Ferdinand may be sold body and soul to the Germans, the Bulgarian nation and army have their own views of remaining in the war until the inevitable victory of the Allies, and at the end of the month it was reported that the Bulgarian army, imitating the example of their Russian cousins, had taken to holding political meetings behind the trenches, while their officers were powerless to secure obedience.

About August 16, there was a great Austro-German conference at German General Headquarters to settle the fate of Poland and to make plans for the continuance of the war. From the little which has leaked out it appears that the spirit of the Kaiser was still so far unchastened that he refused to accept the Austrian proposals regarding the future of Poland, and consequently the Emperor of Austria refused any effective military support to Germany on the western front. It is probable that now the Kaiser would accept any Austrian conditions for the sake of the Austrian divisions in the west, but whether the Austrians would allow the divisions to go, or whether now that the relations of the Slav fringe of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is mobilising for open rebellion, it would be possible for any considerable force to proceed, is another matter.

The German Naval Minister and the Commander of the High Seas Fleet have both fallen during the month, partly owing to disastrous action at the Battle of the Dogger Bank, and partly owing to the outbreak of naval mutinies at Wilhelmshaven. On August 17 Spain presented Germany with an ultimatum threatening to confiscate German ships in case of further German U boat outrages against Spanish ships. As usual Germany has attempted to gain time by negotiations, and has meanwhile continued to sink Spanish ships. Spain has now put her threat into execution, and has confiscated a German ship as a reprisal for the sinking of the Spanish ship "Ataz Mandez." Whether this will result in a rupture of diplomatic relations or of open hostilities remains to be seen.

On August 18 the German Colonial Minister made a speech in reply to Mr. Balfour's statements on the future of German colonies. The speech and was a curious mixture of German bombast and cringing. Soft appealed to Mr. Balfour to have a little confidence in German good faith. Ridiculous as the speech was it is worth remembering since it can be taken as an indication of a forthcoming German peace offensive, which would be conducted by Soft, who is mentioned as a possible successor to Hertling. Germany will probably be foolish if she entrusts the making of peace to men of the calibre of Soft when she has a Kuehlmann at her command.

Perhaps the most important political event in Turkey has been the issue of an Imperial Edict directing Enver Pasha of his title of generalissimo and appointing Ism Chief of General Staff instead while retaining office as War Minister. Though Enver's functions remain unchanged, the edict was unmistakably intended to reduce his status. In all his acts the new Sultan is evidently aiming at reducing the powers of the Germans and pro-Germans in Turkey, in which he appears to be supported by Talaat Pasha.

SUEZ NOTES.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAHMAL

(From our own Correspondent).

Suez, Sept. 2.

The Mahmal, or Holy Carpet, arrived here today at 11 p.m. by special train from Cairo, and was met at the goods station, where it detrained, by the Sub-Governor of Suez, the city commandant, Bimbashi Cove, the Mamour and a guard of honour of the local police. At 3 p.m. the procession headed by the Prince el Hag, and followed by the Mahmal, proceeded through the streets of the town, escorted by the local police, headed by the Mamour, and at 4 p.m. the Mahmal entrained by special train for Port Tewfik, where the Prince and the Mahmal were received by Bimbashi Cave, the city commandant, and the Mamour with a guard of honour of the local police and were escorted to the steamer which was to take them to Jeddah.

H.E. the Governor of Suez being indisposed, was unfortunately unable to attend at this function. Thanks to the care and forethought of the commandant of the police, all the arrangements for order in the town were perfect during the procession and the crowds of Europeans and natives who viewed it were able to do so with comfort.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market was quiet yesterday and closed generally weaker. The following were the officially quoted prices:—

Cotton Futures closed at £94 7/8, transactions being done at that price and at £94 13/16.

Agricultural Bank dropped 1/64 closing at £9 15/16, business being done at that price and at £6 25/32.

Credit Foncier bonds issues 1886 and 1911 were at fr.391 and 280 1/2 respectively.

Business was done in Building Lands of Egypt at £1 27/32, 1/64 rise.

Société du Behera dropped an eighth to £14 13/16, transactions being done at £14 7/8, and 14 13/16.

There was some business in Chek Fadl which dropped half a franc to fr.108.

Union Foncier of Egypt closed at £3 23/32 a drop of 3/32, transactions being done at £3 23/32 1/64, 3 23/32, 3 3/4 and 3 23/32.

Gabbari Land rose 1/64 to £1 1/8, business being done at £1 1/16, 1 1/16 1/128, 1 1/16 1/64, 1 3/32 and 1 1/8.

Priv. Trams d'Alexandrie remained unchanged at fr.110.

Unl. Egyptian dropped 9 pence to 62/9 transaction being done at 61/6, 62/9 62/3 and 62/9.

There were important transactions in Salt and Soda at 60/9, 60/7 1/2, 60/6 60/-, 59/9, 59/7 1/2, 59/6, 59/3, 59/4 1/2, 60/-, 60/1 1/2, 60/3, 60/6, 60/7 1/2 60/9, 60/10 1/2 and 60/9 a six pence drop.

Filatures Nationales rose half half a pound closing at £36 1/4, transactions being done at £35 3/4, 36 and 36 1/4.

Associated Cotton Ginners closed unchanged at £1 3/32 1/64.

Port Said Salt dropped 1/64. to 126/6, New Egyptian Co. three pence to 22/3, Egypt and Levant s.s. Co. six pence to 35/, and deferred Levant Line 15s. closing at 185/-.

Aboukir Company were quoted at 26/- a rise of 1 1/2d.

THE NATIVE PRESS.

THE PROVINCIAL AUTOCRATS.

The "Minbar."— (From an article on the defects of Provincial Councils).— Among the defects of these Councils is that, beside their lack of independence as representative bodies, they have submissive members who bring to their personal independence. The Mudir, it has been observed, is all in all in the Council. He gives the opinion and practically decides. This state of things has in the nature of things led to considerable confusion and defects in the work of the Councils. Among the other events which are far from reflecting good credit upon some of the Councils is the following: One of the Mudirs once managed to appoint a relative of his as headmaster of one of the schools belonging to the Provincial Council of which he was the President, with a high salary for a period of ten years. The appointment was unanimously approved of by the council and the contract was accordingly signed by both parties. Some time afterwards, the Mudir was transferred to another province, and his successor began to change the officials appointed by him, beginning with the last mudir's relative, the headmaster. He asked the Provincial Council to abolish the contract connected with his appointment, and the Council did not hesitate to do so, simplicitor, at the desire of the Mudir. Such irregularities take place every day in the Councils of the provinces which have been established, yet official offices for the Mudirs who admit to their service anyone they like of their relatives and friends, and this is so frequently dangerous so far as the educational movement is concerned, owing to the absence of guarantees for the selections of qualified men for service. The only remedy is on the part of the members to assume an independent attitude and cease to submit in every thing to the Mudir.

POLITENESS IN THE PROVINCES.

The "Ahaly."— The following is a specimen of an amusing correspondence exchanged between the Director of Education in the service of one of the Provincial Councils and a headmaster of one of Government Schools. It shows how much the politeness of correspondence degenerates among some people. The Provincial Council referred to above decided to transfer the headmaster to another school in another town, and the latter asked for a travelling allowance. The Council approved of giving him the necessary expenses required for himself personally but did not provide for the departure of his wife on the ground that he had been married after the decision ordering his transfer. The headmaster then wrote to the Director of Education as follows: "In reply to the Council's note refusing to pay the expenses of my wife on the ground that we were married after the decision relative to the transfer, I beg to state that our marriage took place before that decision was given, according to the enclosed short document being the date of the marriage. I therefore beg of the Council to give the required allowance for both." The Director of Education replied to the above letter as follows:— "I have followed your numerous writings which you have displayed craziness with regard to the travelling allowance for your wife and the removal of her furniture. I thought that if you made a mistake in a certain question and received kind reminders from the Council to avoid doing wrong, you would submit and would regret your fool. ish idea and cease to pursue your folly. But your debased soul and your rashness persuaded you to write with your wicked fingers this letter dated July 30, 1918, which is full of nonsense and impudence, couched in such words as would bring about bad results to you if I were to submit the same to His Excellency the Mudir, in which case you would receive a severe punishment instead of money. 'a brief you are right in what you demand, and you have been very rude. I now write these lines to you in order that you may abandon your folly, cancel your absurd demands, and write to me on this letter stating you are convinced of your folly and error. I wait 30 a quick reply, etc." In this the sort of courtesy and politeness which must prevail among educating and educated people?

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE RED CRESCENT?

The "Afkar."— We have already announced that the Red Crescent Society has closed its doors, and when we published that news received from a reliable source, we stated that the authorities had begun to think of solving the difficulty of the Egyptian Red Crescent League, which was formed for helping humanity and reducing the agony of the wounded. A long time has passed since then, and we wondered what the school was materialising we recently inquired into the present circumstances of the Society. To our surprise the reply was that "nothing has been done as yet"; and we concluded that nothing was expected to be done in the near future. Our informant then said, as though he had understood our thoughts, that the Egyptian Red Cross Societies undertake the task of attending victims of infectious diseases in peace time, and giving grants to those who are suffering unexpected mishaps. Why should not the money deposited for the Egyptian Red Crescent with the National Bank of Egypt, amounting to L.E. 10,000, be devoted to some benevolent scheme such as the erection of a hospital or asylum? We reproduce this idea of our informant so that the leading members of the Egyptian Red Crescent may take it into consideration, in the hope that they do something for utilising the money in question.

The "Ahram."— (From a letter from Alexandria referring to the Red Cross Society's activity, and the preparations for "Our Day" of this year). We would like to know, but do not know, what the Egyptian Red Crescent Society and what sort of work is it doing? We cannot see why it should not start to answer the call for giving help to the E.L.C.

SO IT GOES ON!

The "Mokattam."— Our correspondent at Sohag states that the fellahs propose to sell his grain at the earliest rate, and those who need wheat find themselves compelled to purchase it as the producer pleases. What now is being sold here at the rate of P.T. 380 per ardeb, and durs at P.T. 255 the ardeb, barley at P.T. 210 the ardeb, and sesame at P.T. 18 per rotl!

MORALS CORRUPTED THROUGH SONGS.

"Misr."— Many of the hawkers who sell sweets and refreshments in the streets of Cairo sing rude words and repeat wicked expressions of a nature to corrupt the character of children who are fond of imitating what they see and repeating what they hear. In the district of Sayyeda Zenab there are some persons who sing old songs and a large number of children always assemble around them to hear them. The sort of songs soon spread among the children and the lower class of people and they repeat them openly without fear or shame. We content ourselves with this remark to-day and hope that the authorities will pay great attention to this matter connected with public morals.

Lady Honywood, wife of the holder of the oldest baronetcy in England, has taken Batts' Hotel, Dover street, which she intends to conduct herself with an all-British staff (says the "Daily Mail"). Wherever possible trained women will be employed instead of men.

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NO NEW NAMES FOR ALIENS.

THOSE CHANGED DURING WAR MAY BE CANCELLED.

It has been officially announced that no person who is not a natural born British subject will in future be allowed to make any change of name except by permission of the Secretary of State. A "natural born British subject" means a British subject who is of British parentage or was born within the Dominions. It is also illegal for any person, other than a natural born British subject, whose name has been changed since the commencement of the war, to continue the use of the name except by permission. But any such person who applied for permission before August 19 may continue to use the new name pending a decision.

These regulations do not apply to a change of name by royal license, the use by a woman of her married name, or in the case of a British born woman who, having lost her British nationality by marriage, has either resumed it by naturalisation or obtained exemption from the provisions of the Aliens Restriction Order.

Applications under the regulation should give full details as to the original name, the proposed new name, the reasons for change, and the birthplace and nationality (original and acquired) of the applicant and his parents. Letters should be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall, and the envelope marked "Change of name."

FRANCE'S BLACK ARMY.

TO BE GREATLY REINFORCED.

The Senegalese troops, who have been rendering so good an account of themselves under General Mangin—the creator of France's Colonial Army—will be considerably reinforced before the year is out. The recruitment of new contingents in Africa is proceeding very satisfactorily, certain anticipated difficulties having failed to materialise, and it is permissible to state that the first bodies of men have already arrived in France, where special training camps have been established for them.

No better tribute to the fighting qualities of the Senegalese warriors could be desired than the chagrined references to them made in the German official report at the opening of General Foch's counter-offensive.

The Brazilian Minister in Madrid was informed recently by telegram from Corcubion, near Cape Finisterre, stating that the captain and 17 men from the Brazilian steamer Maceio, late German Santa China, 2,310 tons, have been landed there. The Maceio was torpedoed by a submarine. Two rafts on which were 44 men are missing.

HOUSE PROBLEM IN ENGLAND.

500,000 HOMES WANTED.

Sir Tudor Walters' Housing Committee, which has been sitting for twelve months, has completed its report, but it has not yet been presented to the Local Government Board. It will prove to be a document of far-reaching importance. The extent of the housing problem may be gathered from the fact that the present need for working-class homes in Great Britain amounts to at least 500,000 houses. This does not include the normal demand for 100,000 houses annually. With the scarcity of raw material and labour that will prevail for some years after the war, the problem confronting the Committee was an exceedingly difficult one.

The Committee recommend some supreme guiding direction to carry out an adequate housing problem. This may take the form of a strong Housing Department at the Local Government Board, with an experienced and capable Chief Commissioner. The country may be divided into districts, and local Commissioners appointed working under the central control, but with executive powers.

RAILWAY FERRY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

In an article headed "France Bound to England" the "Matin" records the establishment of a ferry-boat service between the two countries by which whole trains are conveyed across the Channel, carrying the passengers and merchandise. The delay and inconvenience caused by changing from train to steamer and from steamer to train are thus saved.

The railway on the water, as the "Matin" calls it, which has been most successfully inaugurated, is the realisation of a project nearly a hundred years old, and was first tried experimentally in 1912, when on April 29 a train-load of grapes and peaches was sent direct from Perpignan to England by way of Paris, Dieppe and again on to the railway at Newhaven by means of a crane, but in the new service which has just been begun the use of a crane is avoided.

It is pointed out that the ferry-boat service to England will benefit not only France, but also Italy, Spain, Algeria, and Morocco.

A Brisbane telegram says a crowd of women invaded Parliament House demanding six o'clock closing for hotels. The sitting of the Legislative Assembly was suspended for half an hour, after which the women retired.