OUR PALESTINE LETTER.

NEW BUSINESS SCHEMES.

SCARCITY OF BUILDINGS.

(By Moses Levene.)

Palestine, March 14.

During the past few weeks, commercial and social activities have been much in evidence in the various towns and colonies of Palestine. Local business men are busy formulating commercial schemes, whereby, as soon as peace is signed, they will be able to attract foreign investments in this country. In fact, merchants abroad, contemplating the starting of factories here, have already written to friends asking them to select suitable sites for building premises, as they consider the renting of buildings will almost be impossible, when the gates of Palestine open freely.

BUILDING UNDER THE TURKS.

Indeed there are very few suitable buildings for factories and warehouses. Under the defunct regime, any proposal aimed at construction and improvement, was ruthlessly cancelled or categorically refused. Houses had to be constructed at night time, when the Turkish policeman could see the silvery bribe of a Mejidieh or two. When the most beautiful suburb in Palestine, Tel Abiv, at Jaffa was built, tremendous difficulties had to be encountered. The generous proposal of an English lady to install water into Jerusalem, was brushed aside, as if something deadly was intended for the inhabitants. The colonists, desirous of transporting their crops to the ports, could only do so at much expense and risk, because the government would not allow them to repair them even at their own expense.

All these restrictions have disappeared. Roads and railways will unite the still sparsely inhabited districts of Palestine, and with the projected influx of immigrants, it is wise to forecast high rents, and temporary lack of convenient accommodation. The first comers, however, will certainly meet with more chances.

ADVENT OF THE FOREIGNER.

Among some local commercial people there is a tendency to combine against the invasion of foreigners. They do not object to capital being brought in, provided the profits accruing therefrom do not return to the origin whence the capital came.

Sea port towns like Jaffa and Haifa, are especially active in commercial schemes. At Jaffa a Shop-keepers' Association was recently formed with the object of building a new business quarter near the shore. In the town proper there are but few premises available, and these at rents that the ordinary shopkeeper cannot afford to pay. The proposed business quarter will be built according to the requirements of the respective members of the Association, and the Government there has already been approached on the matter. Another company has been formed for house building, and for the acquisition of building materials which will be in great demand in the near future.

SALT FISH INDUSTRY.

Fish salting and curing is another industry that is being studied by business men. Before the war, salted herrings used to be imported in great quantities from Holland and Scotland, and cured fish from Odessa. The natives as well as the Russian element in Palestine are very fond of salted stuff, and the Turkish Government with its usual unspeakableness, refused to gratify the wishes of the people. There is an abundance of fish in the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan, and other Palestinian rivers, and the erection of a fish curing and salting factory would no doubt prove successful.

The transformation of Tiberias into a health resort is also engaging the attention of some capitalists. Tiberias has always been, more or less, the health resort of Palestine, owing to the hot springs in its vicinity. About half an hour's distance to the south of the city lie the renowned hot spring baths. The water is much praised as a cure for rheumatism. The principal spring has a temperature of 103 degrees of Fahrenheit. Many other springs flow into the lake, without benefiting mankind by their medicinal and mineral uses. These springs mostly contain sulphur and chloride of magnesium.

The erection of a grand hotel on one of the neighbouring hills, and the extension of the baths and their embellishment, would attract visitors and invalids from every part of the East. In addition to the baths, the sailing of pleasure boats on the lake would yield a handsome income. The Tiberias season, under the old regime used to last from the end of October to about the end of April; under improved conditions the season would no doubt be prolonged.

The above schemes are only a few of those that now possess the minds of business groups in Palestine.

JEWISH ARTS SOCIETY.

A Jewish Arts Society has been established at Jerusalem in connection with the Bezalel Art School. The object of this Society is to foster and diffuse among the people, a love for painting and for artistic handicraft, according to the Hebraic taste.

PURIM.

The Jewish element is preparing, as it never did before, to celebrate this year's Purim, or Feast of Haman, which falls on Monday next. Last year Judea was free but Galilee was not; this year Palestine is liberated from Dan to Beer Sheba, and the scattered ones in Angora, Shivas or Constantinople have returned to their homes. The complete fall of Djemal Pasha, or Haman as he was nicknamed, has been realised, and family rejoicings have been postponed for this historic day of merriment. Concerts and masked balls are to take place. The Jewish soldier lads from across the sea are also not to be forgotten, as a lady's committee is providing them with gifts and other good things.

THE DULCITONE.

has all the advantages of a piano, but it never gets out of tune. It has an greeable sound and touch, is very light and portable, and its cost is one third of that of a piano. It being the greatest invention in the world of music—and British make.

Agents: Lifonti, Rue Rosette, Alexandria and Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo.

THE NATIVE PRESS.

A TEACHER'S PROTEST.

The Cairo papers which have ceased to come to Alexandria since Saturday last have now begun to come. We have just received two copies of the "Akhar" and "Akhbar" of Saturday last. The following are some extracts of both journals:—

The "Akhar" (a letter to the editor signed by "Teacher," defending the students).—Will you please give space to the following remarks for the sake of right and humanity? It is pretended by some people that the students of the Egyptian schools here have wrecked the tramcars, and destroyed the street trees; they also make the false statement that the students had heavy sticks with them which they used in smashing glass windows, etc. This is all untrue, and we cannot allow such disgraceful things to be attributed to us, and our wise children are too dignified to do such deeds. It is better for those who publish such statements to see that their reports are authentic before publishing them, for there is no sense in making such falsehoods, especially after it was proved by the press, both Arabic and European, that the students' demonstration was pacific, and that all the damage done was done by a group of low class people and pickpockets.

ALEXANDRIA STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS.

The "Ahaly."—We reported in a former issue that an enquiry had been opened at the Ras el-Tin Government School, by Hagging Effendi a Police officer of the Alexandria Governorate, and now we add that the enquiry in question was a result of the first demonstration which was held by the students. With the help of the headmaster of the school the enquiring officer took a list of the names of 15 students. After the second demonstration the number of students of the same school became less and less every day, from over 400 pupils who were at the school before Saturday only 250 came to the school on Saturday, On Sunday the number dwindled to 120 and on the three following days to 87, 76, and 95, respectively.

SCHOOLS STILL OUT.

The "Basair" (from a letter from Cairo dated the 16th inst.).—There are now 149 persons in prison, of whom 42 are students, and the rest are artisans, and a number of idlers. Yesterday and to-day a number of students of the highir schools have been arrested. The students have issued fresh circulars advising the inhabitants to keep quiet and not to molest foreigners in this country. The headmaster of the Government schools and other institutions have returned to their schools but are still workless for the students have not yet returned.

LEGAL REFORM IN EGYPT.

MANCHESTER REPRESENTATIONS.

A deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, consisting of Mr. R.S. Stoker, M.P. (president), Sir John S. Randles, M.P., Mr. F.W. Astbury, M.P., Major Hurst, M.P., Mr. A. Hallwood, M.P., Mr. Alderman Carter, M.P., Mr. A. Bersi (S. Bersi and Co.) and Mr. J.P. Foster of the Egyptian Bar, have waited upon upon Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the absence of Lord Curzon of Kedleston owing to indisposition.

The object of the deputation was to impress upon the Foreign Office that they should take steps to bring about certain legal reforms which are understood to be under the consideration of the Capitulations Committee in Egypt, namely, the adoption of English law as far as it is applicable, and the abrogation of the present anomaly in the matter of the English language and its status in the Egyptian courts. At present, although Great Britain is the protecting country in Egypt, English has no standing whatever in legal proceedings, as it is not permitted to be used in pleading or advocacy. This absence of status is resented by British residents in Egypt.

The Minister promised attention to the representations.

THE ZERVUDACHI ESTATE.

ASPHALT MINES OF IATAKIA.

An English Syndicate has made an offer to the Trustees in bankruptcy of the Estate of the late George Zervudachi to purchase the asphalt mines at Latakia for L.E.100,000. It is thought that there will be a meeting of the creditors to consider the offer, and it is believed that L.E.200,000 will be asked. These are said to be the biggest asphalt mines in the world, and they are conveniently situated near the sea for export.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

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

Unified advanced 1/8 to £92 5/8, while Badique d'Athenes rose 1fr. to fr.89 1/2 and there was no change in Agricultural Bank which were at £6 23/32.

Credit Foncier bonds department was firmer issues 1886, 1903 and 1911 being quoted at fr.429, 314 and 283 respectively.

National Bank rose 1/32 to £22 7/16; Gabbari Lands were at £7/32. 3/64 higher and Tick Bad remained at fr. 105 while Société des Immeubles dropped 1/16 to £6 1/4 and Privileged Trams fell half a franc closing at fr.110 1/2.

There was a rise of 1/4 1/2d. in Ord. Khedivieh which closed at 92/4 1/2.d; Salt and Soda advancing 1/64, to 53/3d. while Egyptian Delta Light remained at £7 1/2.

Brasseries d'Egypte closed unchanged at fr.265; Associated Cotton Ginners being offered at £ 27/32 showing a rise of 1/64.

New Egyptian Bonds were 4 1/2d higher at 74/- while there was no change in Egypt and Levant s.s. Co. which were quoted at 30 shillings.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

As a result of the adjudication held on February 25, at the Cairo Tanzim Department for the supply to the Ministry of Public Works of 2,000 unciness for tree props, size 4m. x 4 cm. x 4 cm., the tender of the Commercial and Estates Co. of Egypt (late Karam and frères), value L.E. 240, has been accepted.

The handling of the Ports and Lights Administration's coal during the financial year 1919-1920 has been adjudicated to Hassan Zaki in Hussein at the price of 37 milliemes per ton.

NEW INDUSTRY AT JAFFA.

Several hundred women are now employed at Jaffa by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, in the making up of 5,000 sets of bedding—composed of mattress, quilt, and pillow—an urgent necessity in the plundered and desolate homes. Several rooms are filled by the busy workers. A notable triumph has been achieved in the undertaking of this work at all by the women, men only having been accustomed to beat the cotton and prepare the quilts before the war. There was much hesitation at first in facing this more elaborate task, but once the bolder spirits had made a beginning the rest soon followed suit, and found the work well within their powers. Some of those engaged are amongst the poorest, in whose homes there is absolutely no daily cookery for want of food and fuel.

The Swiss newspapers announce that Switzerland has been excepted from the Board of Trade's recent prohibition of the unlicensed importation of dyestuffs into the United Kingdom.

During the year 1918 the United States built 1,957 merchant ships of 2,929,833 gross tons. This constitutes a world's record for merchant ships launched in one year, which up to 1913 was held by Great Britain.

MAJESTIC HOTEL
AND GRILL ROOM, ALEXANDRIA.
Best Cuisine.
Concerts daily during
AFTERNOON TEA & DINNER.

DAVID SANDEMAN & Sons, Ltd.
Wine and Spirit Merchants,
Also: 64, Pall Mall, LONDON. CAIRO & ALEXANDRIA.
Hardies' Antiquary Whisky, Gordon's Gin,
Hennessy XXX Brandy, Bass Ale, Guinness Stout

PORT SAID NOTES.

THE ALLIES' ENSIGN.

(From our own Correspondent).

Port Said, March 15.

The bad weather which we experienced here a couple of weeks ago, as usual made the foreshore into a miniature lake, and furnished a splendid means of getting wet and dirty to the youthful residents. No particular damage appears to have been done by the gale, though a tree at the side of the railway line was blown down on to a passing train, which might have had serious consequencies, though happily nothing occurred beyond a few broken windows.

Shipping is fairly brisk again, and the "ensign" of the Allies, a white flag with a horizontal black stripe running through the middle, is getting a familiar sight in the prt. as all the enemy ships that have been taken over by the Allies jointly, are now flying it.

A few days ago there appeared in the outer port (it was too rough weather to bring her right in then), the floating dry dock, which in the early part of the war was taken from Alexandria to Malta in the Aegean, but is now being taken home again, it having succeeded in getting itself demobilised.

No doubt the rest of Egypt is suffering as well as Port Said, from the condition of our paper money. In fact the "filthy lucre" which we are warned against in the Book must refer to Egyptian paper. In the phrase describes them exactly. Many are torn, patched, holed in several places in fact some would make a good model golf course, and nearly all are in a thoroughly insanitary condition. They are issued in this state by the Post Office and Banks. However it is surely not too much to ask that the Government, who must be making something out of the note issue, should make arrangements for the automatic withdrawal from circulation of these notes. As a start the standard might be that if one has to look twice to see if a note is for five or fifty piastres, it should be deemed as unfit for further use as money though a bacteriologist might use the note as a microbe farm.

The St. George's School which has recently moved into new premises on the sea front gave last night a charming entertainment to the officers at the Rest Camp Y.M.C.A. While the tableaux were being arranged Mrs. Arthur Jones treated the men to several songs and the encores demanded were a proof of the appreciation felt. The brilliant playing of the pianist added not a little to the success of the evening.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT.

Lord Grenfell (formerly Sirdar of the Egyptian Army) writes to the "Times" as follows on the subject of an Imperial Institute of archaeology in Egypt:—

"Sir,—As president of the oldest society in Great Britain devoting itself to Egyptian archaeology, I desire to endorse every line of Sir Arthur Evans's very forcible letter in the "Times" of this morning. In advocating the creation of a British Imperial Institute of Archaeology for Egypt, not merely subsidized, but wholly maintained on a liberal scale by the State, the discoverer of the Minoan civilisation has laid his finger upon a glaring defect of our own. For a long time in Egypt has been practicly under British rule; yet whereas France and Germany have made it a point of honour to sustain well-equipped schools of archaeology in Egypt, and whereas the American museums and universities have vied with one another in fitting out ever more costly exploring expeditions, our own Government has been content to leave its reputation as regards the study of the antiquities of Egypt in the hands of a few enthusiasts, supported by the subscriptions of private individuals.

As Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, and latterly commanding the British Force in Egypt, and also taking the greatest possible interest in Egyptology, it was often a matter of great regret to me to note the serious disadvantages at which British archaeologists were placed in comparison with those of other countries; and in the past few months I have had exceptional opportunity for observing the unhappy results of this same policy. The Egypt Exploration Fund, the society alluded to above, has striven hard in face of countless difficulties to secure the sum needful for entering the ranks as a competitor with the French and American excavators. Egyptologists themselves have responded well to our appeal, no less than others who, without being specialists, have long interested themselves in Egyptian archaeology; nor must I forget the liberal contributions provided by some of those patriotic and wealthy fellow-countrymen who are regularly appealed to whenever any worthy and State-neglected cause is at stake. But when all is said and done, the amount we have collected as capital is less than would suffice to support for a single year an institute such as our responsibilities as the protecting Power in Egypt seem to render indispensable. The credit of the country is involved. In taking over full responsibility for the administration of Egypt, we are bound to show that we are behind no other country in our care for the intellectual interests connected with the same. Surely it is time that such debts to culture and to education should be paid, not by a handful of individuals properly sensitive to their country's repute, but by the Government acting on behalf of the community at large."

The Swiss agitators Guilbeaux and Hartman, who have been found guilty of spreading Germanophile propaganda, have been sentenced to death by a Paris court-martial.

SMOKED FISH
HADDOCKS, BLOATERS etc.,
The Nile Cold Storage Co. now offer the best qualities of smoked fish, prepared by an EXPERT CURER from SCOTLAND.
TRY THEM. THEY ARE REALLY EXCELLENT.
NILE COLD STORAGE CO.
CAIRO, 18, Sharia Boulac. ALEXANDRIA, Boulevard de Ramleh. PORT-SAID, Sharia El-Nil.

TAILORING Under the Supervision of an Experienced English Cutter.
Complete Camp Equipment.
ALL BRITISH.
LONDON HOUSE
JUST RECEIVED
A FINE SELECTION OF
BEDFORD & WHIPCORD TRENCH COATS.
ALEXANDRIA: 14, Rue Sesostris.
MANSOURAH: Rue Ismail.

Indigestion and Stomach Pains.
Dr. Cassell's Tablets Make Your Stomach Strong to Digest Food, and Cure All Your Pains.
If you cannot digest your food and get all the good nourishment out of it you cannot be well. The food just lies in the stomach and will not dissolve, and that is why you have pain. But take Dr. Cassell's Tablets and soon your stomach will be strong again, and able to digest what you eat, and then you will have no more pain. Dr. Cassell's Tablets are the friends of all who suffer. They cure indigestion and weakness of every kind.
JOHN C. BRITTAIN, ESQ., F.S.Sc., Churchstreet, Mansfield, Eng., writes: "I have had convincing proof of the value of Dr. Cassell's Tablets. They are certainly to be recommended in all run-down conditions, and also in cases of defective digestion or assimilation."
Dr. Cassell's Tablets
Dr. Cassell's Tablets are made of rare nutritive and restorative extracts, and are the surest and speediest remedy for
Nerve Weakness, Bodily Weakness, Nerve Paralysis, Nervous Debility, Stomach Troubles, Indigestion, Kidney Complaint, Palpitation, Heat Weakness, Sleeplessness, Wasting Diseases, Vital Exhaustion
Also for Prevention of Malarial Fevers and Dysentery.
Price in England 1/3 and 3/-, the 3/- size being the more economical.
Sold by All Chemists and Stores in all parts of Egypt.
50552-U.T.N.

ASK SPECIALLY FOR
WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
CHEAP, IMMATURE WHISKY DOES MUCH HARM.
MACKIE & Co., Distillers Ltd., Islay, London and Glasgow.
N. SPATHIS, Agent, Cairo & Alexandria.

High-Class Boots & Shoes
for Ladies, Gentlemen and Children
at
HORNSTEIN
AVENUE BOULAC
CAIRO.
The Latest Styles by the best makers suitable for Summer Wear.

TENDERS.
Tenders are required by the Military Authorities not later than noon on Monday March 31, 1919, for the supply of Fuelwood at Cairo, Alexandria Zagazig, Belbeis and Tél el Kebir for a period of three months commencing April 15 1919.
Full particulars and conditions may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Local Resources Board, Savoy Hotel, Cairo. 64437-1.

YOUR PRETTY CHILDREN
should be photographed at Shoucair's who is offering a prize of L.E.25 to the most beautiful child photographed in his studio. Note the address: Shoucair, the photographer, over the entrance of the Kursaal, Cairo.

Eastern Exchange Hotel.
PORT-SAID.
Oldest Established and only English Hotel.
Orchestra at Lunch and Dinner. First Class.
every modern improvement. "Pulg. Comfort"

Doctor CARBOLA
Skin & Bladder Diseases.
Of the Dermatological School of Paris.
A radical cure in a very short time of all contagious diseases and skin affections.
No. 10, Sherif Pasha Street, Alexandria

F. DAVIDSON & D. REGENSTREIF
OPTICIANS
Opera Square
are glad to inform the
R. A. F.
that they have just received
TRIPLEX FLYING GOGGLES.

Use Only
HOWIE'S BUTTER
Made daily from Pure Pasteurized Cream.
Acknowledged to be the Best in Egypt.
Regular dispatches to all parts of Egypt & Palestine.
Address:
HOWIE & Co., Ezbekieh Gardens, CAIRO.
P.O.B. 271. Telephone 638.
Alexandria Depot: THE COLONIAL STORES.
1, Tewfik Pasha Street.

Dr. CASSIMATIS
Specialist for eyes Glasses & prescriptions for correcting eye glasses, etc.
No. 5, Rue El-Gaid Gosse, St. Catherine's Sq. Alexand