EGYPT'S CENSUS.

RETURNS FOR MINIA PROVINCE.

The Statistical Bureau has issued the census statistics for the Province of Minia. The total population is given as 763,922 of which 386,732 are males and 377,190 females, divided among the various districts as follows:—Abu Kurkes, 103,186; Beni Mazar, 158,823; El Fashn, 100,701; Maghagha, 129,895; Minia (town) 34945, (other localities) 110,639; Samallout, 125,733.

Classified by religion we find that there are 628,958 Moslems, 120,756 Orthodox Christians; 4,231 Catholics; 8,854 Protestans, and 912 other Christians; 173 Jews and 38 not stated or other religions. Of the whole population 388,157 are given as single and 314,970 as married; 8,367 are divorced, 50,993 are stated as widowed and 1,435 not stated. Out of the total of married persons, 2,227 are stated to have two wives; 62 three wives and four the maximum number of legitimate wives.

Classified by literary 33,693 males and 2,358 females are given as literate, while 303,668 males and 321,322 females are stated to be illiterate; 102,881 are children below 5 years of age.

Classified by nationality we find the province contains a total of 762,846 local subjects divided as follows:—Egyptians (Moslem) 603,598, (non-Moslem) 133,538, Bedouins, 22,822 and 2,888 other races. The foreign subjects are: British, 77; French, 173; Italians, 164; Ottomans, 137; Greeks, 440; others and not stated nationalities 78.

The following is the summary of final results published up to date:—

GOVERNORATE:	
Cairo	790,939
Alexandria	444,617
Damietta	30,984
Canal	91,090
Suez	30,996
MUDIRIA:	
Kaliubia	528,581
Sharkia	595,497
Menoufia	1,072,636
Giza	524,352
Dakahlia	986,643
Beni-Suef	452,836
Fayoum	507,617
Gharbia	1,659,313
Assouan	253,340
Kena	840,317
Girga	883,234
Assiut	981,197
Minia	763,922

PURIFICATION OF ALEXANDRIA.

(To THE EDITOR, "EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.")

Sir,—Mr. N. Acourt, of Zeitoun, repeats Mr. Upson's mistake of looking upon venereal diseases as "sin" diseases, i.e.: in his own words, as "sure retribution when a man or a woman sins against the highest and holiest function of man's being, viz: the reproduction of his kind." This sort of confused thinking is so common that I must ask your permission to deal with it once and for all. Do not religious people see what amazingly thin ice they are skating upon when they indulge in this singular form of argument? For this reason. If the venereal diseases were strange unrelated visitations, capable neither of cure nor guarantee; if they were a Curse of God, then the religious folk would be quite safe. But as it happens they are not. Venereal diseases are normal germ infections, capable of definite cure and susceptible to hygienic measures to limit and extirpate them. They are, in fact, of all infections the ones which are most easy to suppress. Cholera may arrive in half a dozen different establishes, all apparently quite pure. Plague may come by the bite of an insect which transfers itself by chance in a crowd. Enteric? Who can say definitely that each route by which it may be conveyed is absolutely void of offence? But with venereal diseases, there is—practically speaking—only one mode of infection. Now educate your people in the cold unemotional scientific facts of life and venereal disappears—save for sporadic cases—within a generation or a generation and a half. Give me a population of ten million people, temperate, self-restrained, clear-thinking, who have a passion for truth and a hatred of false shame, and I will clean it of that sort of disease in a couple of years. I will do it without penalising variety of experience. In fact I need simply let that population cleanse itself by inferable self-imposed rules of hygiene. A modern population, however, will take much longer to do so. They will always be held back by the weird religious notion that a bacterial infection is really a Curse of God—which is pure nonsense. But religion, fortunately, is losing its hold steadily on the people, so far at any rate as this type of monomania is concerned. The venereal diseases are doomed.

Then what is the position of the religious folk? They are persuading us that venereal is God's punishment on Variety. Presently, that punishment will disappear by reason of our greater cleanliness and decency of life. But disappearance can only mean that God has removed his vetos against promiscuity and variety. It becomes permissible; nay, it becomes Right. Because, has not God signified his change of opinion in this matter by permitting our weak wills to remove his curse by the simple expedient of disinfectants, common-sense, soap and water?

Mr. Upson and Mr. Acourt decide to regard a normal disease as God's Punishment for Sin. Very well. Let them do so. But within fifty years their argument will recoil upon them. Sometimes I almost wish—dare I say it? — I almost wish I were living fifty years hence, when clean-minded speople will control their passions by exercising them temperately and with reason, not by shutting them up in a little box.

Yours, &c.,
E. DIGBY.

Alexandria, February 14.

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at

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EGYPT'S FOOD.

THE BREAD QUESTION.

A Cairo correspondent writes:—

In his last letter published by us on Tuesday, our Palestine correspondent mentioned that the price of bread at Jerusalem which had attained P.T. 14 per rotl (2 1/4 kilos) a few weeks ago, dropped down to P.T. 8 last week, or 35 millemes per oke. Likewise, according to the latest information received from Damascus, the best quality of bread is now being sold there at P.T. 2½ per oke. In Egypt, however, the price of bread remains unchanged and the Food Authorities do not seem to be very anxious to help in the matter as otherwise the enormous difference in the price of bread between Egypt and its sister country would exist.

Egypt is an agricultural country. Its last cereal crop was much more abundant than in previous years, owing to the restrictions on cotton cultivation on the one hand and alluring prices realised by cultivators for their previous cereals crops on the other. In addition to this the Government is importing large quantities of Australian flour and selling it to bakers at fairly reasonable prices. One would naturally expect that these factors taken together would result in a drop in the price of bread. This, however, is not the case and we cannot understand the reason for the authorities not interfering energetically to solve such a vital problem, and why they are avoiding the tariffing of bread and the muzzling of bakers.

In both the United States and England, the State is bearing a fairly high sum in orders to enable the public to obtain bread at a remarkable price, i.e., the State is assisting the public to buy bread at a certain price, which is much less than what it really costs, and bears the difference between the cost price and the price fixed for sale. Here in Egypt it is out of the question to expect our authorities to be so indulgent (though the finances of Egypt are relatively just as good). What we really desire is that the authorities should feel the responsibility thrown on their shoulders a little more than they have done for the past four years and should intervene in the matter in such an energetic manner as would solve the bread problem once and for all. What the authorities of Palestine and Syria have done in a few weeks our authorities should be able to accomplish now after nearly five years of war conditions.

CAIRO FLOUR DISTRIBUTION.

Some Cairo flour merchants petitioned to the authorities that though they possessed Governorate permits their proper supply of wheat and flour is never given them. Irregularities are said to accur owing to flour being distributed among those who have no right to it.

TARIFF CONTRAVENTIONS.

The Cairo Military Tribunal for the trial of food profiteers met on Friday under the presidency of Judge Kershaw at the Native Court of Appeal and heard the following cases submitted to it by the Supplies Control Board:—

(1) The case of a well known native butcher of Cairo called Ahmed Mohamed el Fass, accused of selling meat on several occasions at 5 to 15 millièmes per rotl above the official prices. Accused admitted the charge but contended that he did not sell meat at the tariff price as he did not sell any bone with it. Owing to his confession his Counsel requested the Court to dispense with the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution but the Court did not accede to his request and after hearing the witnesses sentenced the accused to a fine of L.E.25 failing the payment of which he would be imprisoned for four months. The Court also warned him that whether he sold meat with or without bone he should comply with the tariff price.

(2) The case of a cereal merchant of Atar el Nabi called Shalabi Abou Zeid accused of selling wheat above the official prices. He contended that he was a middleman only and sold for the account of others. This contention was corroborated by Ismail Effendi El Mufti, Mamour of Atar el Nabi and Rod el Farag Cereal Markets, whereupon the Court sentenced the accused to 3 months' imprisonment with the option of a fine of L.E.20.

(3) The case of Hassan Ali el Fakieh and three others of Shabin el Kanater accused of selling petroleum above the official price. The Court adjourned its hearing for Friday next at the request of the Counsels of accused.

PETROLEUM IN THE SUDAN.

There are at present in the Sudan many complaints from different sources regarding the high prices of petroleum and the scarcity of this commodity in many places. At Merowe petroleum is not only scarce there but people cannot get it even at P.T.200 per tin. It is hoped that the authorities will take the matter in hand and make fresh efforts to secure a larger quantity of petroleum for the Sudan to ensure sufficient distribution and enable those who have been deprived of petroleum to get a regular supply for a reasonable price.

GREEK MERCHANT DISAPPEARS

A certain Greek of Omdurman mysteriously disappeared some days ago. As he had several hundred pounds in his possession it is feared he has met an untimely end as all efforts to trace his whereabouts have up to the present proved unsuccessful.

SUDAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The Provisional Committee of the proposed Sudan Co-operative Society, is now making enquiries regarding suitable sites at Port Sudan and Khartoum. It is desired, if possible, to secure sites with existing buildings.

CAIRO FIRE BRIGADE.

REPORT FOR 1917.

DIMINUTION OF FIRES SINCE THE WAR.

We have received a copy of the annual report of the Cairo City Fire Brigade for the year 1917 which begins with the following letter addressed to His Excellency, the Minister of the Interior signed by Miralai T. W. Russell, Commandant, Cairo City Police:-

EXCELLENCY,—I have the honour of submitting to Your Excellency the Annual Report of the Cairo City Fire Brigade for the year 1917. The most interesting feature of this and the two preceding years has been the great diminution in fires as compared with the years before the war. Dr. Levi, of the Statistical Department, has kindly prepared a diagram which is attached to this report as an appendix; from this it will be seen that fires gradually rose to 418 in 1913 and then fell in 1915 to 258.

While it is difficult to state precisely the reason for this marked decrease, the following are undoubtedly some of the contributing reasons:- (1) Greater value of property and consequent greater care in looking after it. (2) Scarcity of Matches. Before the war matches were almost without value; tobacconists gave away a box of safety matches to the well-to-do and a dozen red phosphorous matches to the poor man. These, the latter carried in his belt or turban, whence they dropped, to the imminent danger of his and other people's property.

During the war, matches became as scarce as they were formerly plentiful, and one great source of accidental fire disappeared. (3) Scarcity of Wood Fuels.— During the war people have had to be most economical with fuel and count it by the handful rather than the armful. (4) Scarcity of Petroleum.— During the war petroleum prices have doubled and increased in numbers, but greater attention has been paid to them and every economy used. Native households have reduced the number of their lamps for lighting to the minimum and thus reduced the risk of fire.

Arson has also diminished in Cairo, and the following are probably the reasons:- (1) General prosperity of the country. (2) Goods paid for in cash instead of being held on credit as in pre-war days. (3) Steady rise in price of all commodities either stored or on sale. (4) Fear of Martial Law. (5) Greater care shown by insurance companies in examining claims.

It is thus proved that the majority of fires are caused by carelessness, and the question should now be studied as to how to profit, in the future, from experience gained during the war.

From the report of Mr. W. D. Blake, Superintendent of the Brigade, we make the following extracts:-

The number of calls to fires or supposed fires was 274, an increase of 10 fires on the previous year. Four of the above fires were outside the town, viz: 1 Kalioub, 1 Giza, 1 Tours, and 1 Pyramids.

There were 9 malicious calls received. Two of the offenders were traced (one man imprisoned for two days; the other was not punished, being a boy of about ten years old).

Incendiarism and Arson.— Of the former there were two cases during the year and two pending from the previous year. Of these latter, one case convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment with hard labour; there was no insurance involved. In the other, the accused being a Greek subject, the case has been referred to Athens and will be eventually tried by the Greek Assize Court of Alexandria; insurance was involved. The two cases that occurred this year are both pending, one was a small fire in which the damage only amounted to L.E.2, and was caused to cover a theft from the till; insurance was involved. The other case involved a sum of L.E.1,700 and the amount claimed was L.E.450. There were five cases of Arson amongst natives. The damage was small in all cases, which were due to family quarrels and revenge; three were fired in consequence of insufficient evidence, and two cases are pending.

The total loss by fires was L.E.12,819, being a decrease of L.E.48,050 on the previous year, in which year, fires from steamboats belonging to Messrs. Thos. Cook & Sons were destroyed. Of the above fires, 28 are classified as serious, one-sixth of the property at risk being destroyed, and 246 fires are classified as slight, the damage being less than one-sixth of the property at risk. The greatest loss during the year was L.E.800 at Wely district.

The amount of insured and uninsured property at risk was as follows:- Insured Property: Building, L.E.144,200 m.; Stock, L.E.78,100 m. Total, L.E.222,300 m. Uninsured Property: Building, L.E.192,651 m.; Stock, L.E.51,353 m.; Total, L.E.243,394 m. Grand total of property at risk: L.E.465,694.

There were five cases of deaths from burns (five women, two men, two boys and one girl); seven of these cases died in hospital after recovery. One woman died through suffocation by smoke. Two women committed suicide by pouring paraffin on their clothes and setting themselves on fire.

There were twenty-eight rescue calls received during the year, a decrease of twenty-two on the previous year. In twenty-one of these, houses had collapsed and fallen on the inmates, the other seven were due to insufficient lighting of the streets and animals falling into drainage trenches. Fourteen persons were extricated alive. Eight persons were extricated dead. Six horses and one buffalo were rescued from drainage trenches.

Motor fire engines attended to 199 recalls, steam fire engines to 29 calls; and manual and hose reels to 36 calls.

There were no casualties at fires amongst men of the Brigade during the year, though one man was unfortunately killed on a practice parade. One fireman was killed in a railway accident while on leave. The health of the men of the Brigade was good, and there were no cases of serious illness during the year.

One petrol motor fire engine and hose tender was received from Messrs. Henry Simonis & Co., London, and taken into use during the year. No.5 steam fire engine had its boiler inspected and was completely overhauled.

The establishment of Firemen is 136, i.e. the Brigade is now 2 men under establishment. During the year, eight men joined the Brigade and seven men were struck off strength, for the following reasons; 2 dies; 2 discharged medically unfit; 1 discharged (time expired), 1 discharged for bad conduct; 1 discharged on resignation. Eight Non-Commissioned Officers and forty men received minor punishments and were fined to L.E.9,210 millièmes during the year. One man was awarded seven days imprisonment and was discharged from the Brigade for bad conduct (see above). Thirteen Non-Commissioned Officers and men were admitted into hospital as compared to twenty during the same period last year. The health of the horses was satisfactory. There were twelve horses on the strength of the Brigade last year. No new horses were purchased.

KEATING'S POWDER KILLS BUGS FLEAS MOTHS BEETLES

Cut out the Racing Coupon.

FOOTBALL.

CAIRO MILITARY LEAGUE.

NOTES.

(By LINESMAN).

The present week will be a busy one for the League, as a glance at the fixtures in to-day's "Gazette" will show. The main task will be the efforts of the selected team of the League at Alexandria to-morrow (Wednesday) to avenge the decisive defeat which the League eleven experienced on their first visit to Alexandria some time ago and to go one better than the draw at Cairo this season. For that purpose the very best team procurable has been selected—hence there will be no excuses this time!

***

Following is a revised list of the Cairo players:-

Coley (27/14 General Hospital), goal; Burden (R.A.S.C.), Caldwell (Cairo Signals), backs; Grant (M.G.C. Base Depot), Potts ("Red Rose") Campbell (27/14 General Hospital), half backs; Rogers (R.A.O.C.) Benton (Cairo Signals), Edwards ("Red Rose"), Buchan (M.G.C.) Goodwin (71st General Hospital), forwards.

Reserves: Sly ("Xerde"), Darlow, (27th General Hospital); Shephard (R.A.S.C).

Linesman: Pte. Law.

Trainer: Cooke (R.A.S.C).

There are still fifteen teams left in the League out of twenty-three original entries; and considering recent military changes, which are still occurring daily—the number left is on the whole surprisingly large.

***

There will probably be further withdrawals before the end of the season. But in such cases were retirement is compulsory through military exigencies, the League committee have decided that any club not fulfilling its engagements will forfeit two points for each game not played, and a score of one goal to nil in favour of the team which should have been played.

***

As the League has provided and continues to provide so much good sport it is hoped that teams who are quite out of the running for the championship, as well as others whose prospects for that honour were at one time much more favourable than they are at present, will continue to fulfil their engagements, whenever possible—"for the good of the cause."

***

The fight for the League championship has at last practically been reduced to a triangular contest between the "Red Rose" (Wings L.R.) the M.G.C. and Cairo Signals. These three have won all their recent engagements, as forecasted in this column the otherday. But that prediction cannot be repeated on the present occasion, as the "Red Rose" and the Signallers at last meet to fight matters out. The contest at the E.S.R. ground on Saturday will therefore be full of interest—and let's hope sport also.

***

Both these teams administered a severe trouncing to the Prisoners of War Hospital eleven in their last two engagements—the Signallers winning their game by 7-0, and the "Red Rose" theirs by 3-0. The latter still have a big lead in goal over all other opponents, with still only one defeat to their debit, in which respect they stand alone in the League table.

***

On form the Gunners are likely to increase their points in their engagement with the Officer Cadets, at Zeitoun, on Saturday; although the M.G.C. men only just managed to beat the 71st General Hospital team, 1-0, in their last engagement.

FIXTURES.

Tuesday:-

"Shamrocks" v. Officers Cadet Btn., at Cairo Sporting Club ground, Shoubra, referee, L/Cpl. Peel.

R.A.O.C. v. "Almaza", at the E.S.R. Institute ground, Saptieh, referee, Spr. McDermott.

Owing to the Inter-League match at Alexandria and the Cup-tie contest between the Egyptian National Sporting Club and the School of Instruction, at Boulac, on Wednesday, there will be no League matches on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; but there are several fixtures for Saturday:-

Saturday:-

Abbassia M.T. Coy. v. P.W. Hosp. at Abbassia Garrison ground, referee, Pte. Griffiths.

Cairo Signals v. "Red Rose" at E.S.R. Institute ground, referee, Pte. Law.

Officer Cadet Btn. v. M.G.C., Base Depot, at Zeitoun, referee, A/M. Glendinning.

"Almaza" v. 27/14 General Hospital, at Almaza ground, referee, Sgt. Davies.

No.71 General Hospital v. R.A.O.C. at the Hospital ground, Giza, referee, Gnr. Stewart.

"Xerde" v. School of Instruction, at Sharia Iron Works ground, referee, Spr. McDermott.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market was weaker yesterday and there was a general fall, the following being the officially quoted closing prices:-

Banque d'Athenes dropped 2 fr. more to fr. 96, Cassa di Sconto closed offered at fr. 102, half a franc drop while National Bank were steady at £22 3/8, 3/32 drop.

Alexandria Water Cy. remained at £12.5/16, Building Lands were unchanged at £1 3/4 and there was no change in Privileged Behera which closed at £4 13/16.

Urbaines et Rurales rose 1/16 to £3 3/4, while Union Fonciere fall 5/32 to £3 13/32; Gabbari Lands dropped 1/64 closing at £- 7/32.

Deferred Trams d'Alexandrie were neglected at fr. 160 showing a ten francs drop, while Ordinary Khedivieh were firmer at 96 shillings a six pence rise.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways Cy. were in request at £7 5/8, and Nungowich Hotels dropped 1/8 closing at £7 25/32.

Salt and Soda remained at 48/- shillings, Brasseries d'Egypte being steady at fr. 290, 12 fr. drop and Privileged Crown being neglected at fr. 410, ten francs drop.

Associated Cotton Ginners were offered at £- 27/32, while Ritz Hotels remained at P.T.11 and there was no change in Egypt and Levant 4% Coy. which were quoted at 30/- shillings.

New Egyptian Coy. dropped 1 1/2d. closing at 24/- shillings.

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ALEXANDRIA GRAND MILITARY MEETING
For Military Charities
SATURDAY FEB. 22

SPATHIS MINERAL WATERS ARE THE BEST. (ADVT.)

RACING ENTHUSIASTS.

Those who cannot attend the Races can yet have a big interest by taking chances in the "Gazette" weekly competition. All entrance fees less ten per cent given to the winner.