CABLES FROM AUSTRALIA.

FEDERAL MINISTRY.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL.

MELBOURNE, Jan.-11.

Several changes have been made in the personnel of the Federal Ministry. Mr. W. Massy Greene M.H.R., (former Liberal Government Whip and lately Minister for the fixing of Prices) succeeds Senator the Hon. J.A. Jensen as Minister for Customs. During the absence in England of the Minister for Defence (Senator G.F. Pearce), Senator the Hon. E. J. Russell administers the Defence Department, with the assistance of Mr. G.H. Wise, M.H.R. Senator the Hon. A. Poynton assists in the administration of the Repatriation Department and continues in the control of shipbuilding, in addition to acting as Minister for Navy pending the return to Australia from England of Sir Joseph Cook. Mr. R. B. Orchard, M.H.R., Minister for Recruiting, will voluntarily retire at the end of January, by which time it is expected the recruiting figures will have been finalised.

LONDON TO AUSTRALIA BY AIR.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

A company known as the "Aerial Services, Limited" has been registered. Its purpose is to establish aerial services between London and Australia. With the object in view an expedition is forming a chart route via Port Darwin, Dutch East Indies, India, and Bagdad.

THE WOOL CONTROL.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

Mr. W.A. Watt, the Acting Prime Minister, states that the Commonwealth Ministry is unlikely to extend the wool control beyond June, 1920.

LONDON DEMOBILISATION.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

The Federal Ministry has appointed Mr. W.G. McBeath to a honorary position on the A.I.F. London Demobilisation Board. Mr. McBeath is a prominent figure in the Australian mercantile world and has previously been identified with the military. He was one of the Committee of Enquiry which some time ago made investigation of the Australian Defence Department.

AN ANZAC MEMORIAL.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Imperial League has purchased the building of the City Club, Melbourne, for £27,000, as an Anzac Memorial.

VICTORIA'S FRUIT CROP.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

The fruit crops in Victoria this season are very small, owing chiefly to thrip.

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

The Quarantine Department's effort in regard to combating with pneumonic influenza have been most successful, and the disease was prevented from entering Australia.

QUARANTINE DEPARTMENT.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

Increase in salaries have been granted to officers of the Quarantine Department, the salary of the Director of Quarantine being raised from £1,000 to £1,200, and those of senior officers from £700 to £900.

OBITUARY.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

The death is reported of Mr. Robert Harper, a pioneer of Commerce in Victoria and at one time a member of the Federal House of Representatives for the now defunct constituency of Merinda (Victoria).

TINPLATE MANUFACTURE.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.

Mr. W.A. Watt, the Acting Prime Minister, expects shortly to announce the establishment of works for the manufacture of tinplate. Hitherto Australia has had to be dependent on overseas manufacturers for its tin plate.

FUTURE OF SYRIA.

OPINION IN FRANCE.

"Pertinax," writing in the "Echo de Paris," speaks of the anxiety which prevails in certain quarters with reference to the future Government of Syria, and lays stress on the provisional character of the understanding which exists at present. This understanding, he says, is based on the convention of October 20 regulating the administration of the country during the British occupation, but a new treaty embodying territorial reconstitution is called for.

There can be no doubt that the Allies of France will recognise the validity of her claims. He adds that the loyalty of the British Ministers has been perfect throughout, and that it has been at pains to make it clear that the Eastern interests of France shall not suffer from the concentration of her troops on the Western front.

TOBACCO FOR SYRIA.

The General Post Office notifies that in future cut tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff for Syria must be forwarded in separate parcels and not in parcels containing other goods.

A Hamburg telegram says that Privy Councillor Dr. Kuno, manager of the Hamburg-Amerika line, has been appointed successor to Herr Ballin.

THE DULCITONE.

has all the advantages of a piano, but it never gets out of tune. It has an agreeable 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 he world of music—and British make.

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

THE NATIVE PRESS.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE'S NEW VENTURE.

The "Mokattam." — We have been asked by many people whether it is true that Lord Northcliffe, the proprietor of the "Times," and the "Daily Mail" has arrived in Cairo and stopped at the Residency, and we have replied in the negative. The rumour has obviously originated from the statement published up the "Westminster Gazette" to the effect that Lord Northcliffe is coming to this country with the object of setting up a branch of the "Daily Mail." But those who know Lord Northcliffe and what keen interest he takes in the question of war and peace, can understand that he is hardly likely to leave Paris and London in these days, no matter how important may be his personal business. Perhaps the man who had in the war what Ministers had not got, is not likely to take himself far away from peace negotiations to fly simply with a view to starting a new edition of his journal in a far country. This may be done, however, in future.

WAS IT A FACT?

The "Basir." — It has been announced, according to official telegrams received on Tuesday last, that the Peace Conference will be held under the presidency of M. Clemenceau the French Premier, and according to another telegram, French will be the formal language of the Conference. These two news items remind us of a humorous remark reported to have been made by M. Briand, the ex-Prime Minister. It happened recently that M. Briand was chatting with a prominent English statesman at an official entertainment when they both talked about the characteristics of both the French and the English as peoples. The Englishman observed that the French nation was worthy of admiration, as it indulges in aspiration and appearances even more than in facts;; and M. Briand replied—"Yes, we sacrifice ourselves for the sake of a leaf of laurel, but the French people understand that that leaf is of a nature to increase the flavour of the soup, and wish now to use it in cooking its food so that it may feel its use." "But do you think, Sir, that this is a fact" said the English gentleman. "Never mind" returned M. Briand, "you can take it for a fact."

ON TITLES

"Wady el-Nil." — Mr. Asquith was offered a high title of honour but he refused to accept it and returned it with thanks saying "I wish to remain a leader of the Liberal Party." This means that he finds his heart's content in the common humanity and like it more than entering the sphere of the nobles who bear official honours where he would be prevented by fancy traditions from cooperating with his party. Mr. Asquith is not the first man occupying a prominent position who refuses to accept an official honour. We know more than one of those who have done so owing to the purity of their souls which do not yield to showy appearances. There are among our eastern men certain individuals who have kept themselves far from such honours as grades and titles without being possessed of such a rich substitute as the party leadership in the hand of Mr. Asquith, and the only thing that took the place of the offered honour was the men's knowledge that the offered title would not add real honour to a noble soul. Such distinguished men know that knowledge and arts can raise a man to a high position which no grades or title can make him reach, and that a grade and a title fail to prop up a man who has no structure of virtues to lean upon. But some of those who are strangely endowed with wealth without stirring a hand to work for it, think that man's perfection lies in his possession of gold and of titles to be able to compare between his wealth and seeing cattle employed on his land and according to his desires. A man of this type knows the use of grades and titles, and he curses his sale and cows, and buffaloes and lands, if he finds himself unable to get the Pashalik of Fadia, or Bey while he dominates such a possession....

EFFECT OF WILL POWER.

"Misr." — A few extracts from a leader under the heading "Will Produces Power"). A sound thought combined with a sound will produce a force varying in its degree in proportion to the reasoning faculty of the man. Every individual possesses a power of will to be strong. You may see a big nation occupying a vast area of ground, and having fertile land a clear sky, but you find the people poor, and how much it had found pleasure and satisfaction in this sort of life. It does not feel the pain of thorns ... and you find a man of weak frame figuring prominently among others and dictating orders to his people showing that he is possessed of a strong will and a strong thought....

WATER IN THE PROVINCES.

The "Ahram." — One of our readers in the village of Abou Daoud, Dakahieh, reminds us of the question of drinking-water in the provinces. He tels us that running water there has ceased to reach canals since December 20, last, and that people have had to use the ill water which they find in different places in the canals for drinking. As there is no other water to be used for domestic purposes, the women of the village have to go to wash their clothes at a place where there is water in the canal.... Does the Public Health Administration know that?....

TRADE PERMITS FOR SYRIA.

The General Post Office notifies that goods despatched to Syria must be accompanied by: (1.) A Permit to Trade, applications for which must be addressed to the "G.S.I. (h), G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon, E.E.F. (2.) An Export licence from the War Trade Department, the Residency, Cairo.

The G.S.I. forwards the Permit to Trade to the War Trade Department, Cairo, which if export be approved, will transmit it, together with the Export License to the exporter for presentation to the Customs or Post Office as the case may be.

CULTIVATION OF ZAGORA COTTON.

The Ministry of Agriculture after further consideration has decided to grant facilities for the cultivation of Zagora cotton in Upper Egypt subject to the engagement on the part of cultivators to supply full information as to the area, the localities in which the crop is to be grown, and eventually the name of the purchaser of the cotton, in order that the Ministry may be enabled to take the necessary safeguards against the possible mixing of Ashmouni and Zagora seed in the interest of both varieties.

Vienna papers state that the ex-Kaiser Charles is seriously ill with influenza. His wife children are also suffering from high temperature, and their condition gives cause for alarm.

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

TURKISH PAPER MONEY.

ITS VICISSITUDES DURING THE WAR.

(To THE EDITOR of the EGYPTIAN GAZETTE).

Sir, A recent issue of the "Egyptian Gazette" mentioned that at Constantinople three Turkish paper pounds had the value of two English pounds thus making the paper lira worth 13/4. This shows that a big swindle is being carried on at the expense of those holding British money and needing Turkish paper to cover current needs, by the Turkish money changers and bankers all interested in giving the paper lira a fictitious value.

Having passed the four years of war in Turkey, my experiences of Turkish money may be of interest. At Beyrout in 1914 there was in circulation a gold, silver and copper coinage. The copper come were mostly in bad condition and had been received from Macedonia, where the Greeks, after the Balkan war, would refuse none of them. All business was done, not in the coinage, but in a local money of account, an abomination for the confusion of strangers, called Beyrout piastres. These were worth about two thirds of the real or actual piastres, and no stranger could have any dealings in Beyrout shop without being swindled more or less in his change. For some time after the outbreak of war there was no change, and the civil prisoners concentrated at Damascus and afterwards at Ourfa were paid in silver and gold money until November 1915. The British Government supplied funds through the American Consulates for the purpose of enabling the civil prisoners to exist, for the Turks supplied nothing, in some cases making us pay heavily for transport when ordered by them to move from one place to another.

At Ourfa four gold Turkish pounds amply covered living costs. In November 1915, Treasury notes made their appearance and were at first accepted at par. At Aleppo in January 1916 the notes were still at par. At Adana in the same month there was some difficulty in getting notes changed. The Municipality had undertaken to give change for notes, and we rushed there daily to get notes changed, but in a few days we were met with the reply "Yock para" (no money) and although we continued to worry the man in charge, no more notes could be changed. The Ottoman Bank was obliging enough to change some few notes, but they had little or no silver left. At Nigde, in February 1916, notes could only be changed with the utmost difficulty and entering the sphere of the nobles who bear official honours where he would be prevented by fancy traditions from cooperating with his party. Mr. Asquith is not the first man occupying a prominent position who refuses to accept an official honour. We know more than one of those who have done so owing to the purity of their souls which do not yield to showy appearances. There are among our eastern men certain individuals who have kept themselves far from such honours as grades and titles without being possessed of such a rich substitute as the party leadership in the hand of Mr. Asquith, and the only thing that took the place of the offered honour was the men's knowledge that the offered title would not add real honour to a noble soul. Such distinguished men know that knowledge and arts can raise a man to a high position which no grades or title can make him reach, and that a grade and a title fail to prop up a man who has no structure of virtues to lean upon. But some of those who are strangely endowed with wealth without stirring a hand to work for it, think that man's perfection lies in his possession of gold and of titles to be able to compare between his wealth and seeing cattle employed on his land and according to his desires. A man of this type knows the use of grades and titles, and he curses his sale and cows, and buffaloes and lands, if he finds himself unable to get the Pashalik of Fadia, or Bey while he dominates such a possession....

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Marina Palace Hotel,
Port-Said.
First class with all modern improvements affords excellent accommodation for Naval and Military Officers and residents alike.

BUSINESS IN EGYPT.

AFTER WAR TRADE PRICES.

CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS' OPINIONS.

There seems to be a fixed idea in the mind of the general public that prices of all commodities, especially those imported from abroad, should be forthwith reduced in price. High prices they regard as a "war measure," and now that hostilities have ceased, they consider that a swing back to the normal should be the order of the day. Not only is this the idea of the man in the street—who is naturally not given to profound consideration of the questions he delivers opinions about—but some confusion was caused at the time of the signing of the Armistice by importers themselves, in certain instances refusing to receive consignments or cancelling orders they had given for goods while they were at the war figure, under the impression that the present prices must be necessarily much lower than those at which they had been induced to order.

The facts are, however, exactly the reverse. By the courtesy of one of our British merchants in Egypt, we have been permitted to peruse some of his correspondence that has taken place during the last two and a half months between his firm and manufacturers in London concerning the present prices of some of the largest houses engaged in the various branches of the cotton industry; and there were very considerable differences in their opinions, although on balance none of them seemed to expect a big slump. Short of that, whereas some think prices will go higher, whether peace is signed or not, others think peace may be followed by a moderate fall in values. Opinions generally vary considerably at the extremes. We ourselves cannot say much more with regard to prices. As manufacturers it is obvious that we have material, no matter what the price may be. As regards delivery the ceasing of the government pressure may enable us to quote at far more reasonable dates instead of our present nine to ten months.

The following from the "Near East" of December 27, gives the position of the cotton market in Manchester (which of course vitally affects manufacturers' prices) at that date:-

"Nearly the whole of this week has been given up to holidaymaking, and since Tuesday the market has been entirely closed. Although no particular development in the situation can be recorded, the prospects rather tend to improve. There is some inclination to anticipate lower values in the near future. Owing to prices being controlled, Egyptian cotton keeps steady. A rather hardening movement, however, has shown itself in American qualities. A little more inquiry has been mentioned in Egyptian yarns, but in other specials sorts. Business in piece goods for Egypt remains depressed. Better telegrams have again been received from India, and free clearances are said to be taking place in the bazaars at hardening prices. American yarns remain uncertain. Most users continue to purchase from hand to mouth. Some fair sales have been mentioned in yarns and piece goods."

The following letter is dated from London, October 25:-

"..... At the present time stocks of raw material are very scarce. The reason for the Government's stopping the exportation of allied goods is that the supply of flax is practically exhausted. Again, as regards woollen goods, supplies of raw material are short. The Government has the lion's share of all supplies, and is only allotting small quantities to the makers for civilian requirements. Consequently the mills are all short of material, and what is one of the chief factors in the position all round is the labour market and cost of production.

"The countries that are outside the Entente are absolutely starving for material, and, in fact, the Allied countries have been kept so short, that for some time to come prices can not be material."

NO LOWER PRICES IN 1919.

On December 11 another manufacturer writes from London:-

"My feeling is very strong and definite that prices for the end of 1919 we are not likely to have prices lower, but possibly higher, and that the supply of goods for civilian wear will be very small.

"A few people here have taken fright since the war ceased as regards prices, but when we look at the fact that practically the whole world is depleted of woollen goods, and that there is no prospect of any goods in this country we know that it must be many months before there can be any great output.

"In addition, it must be borne in mind that the Government is still employing a very large amount of woollen machinery, and is likely to continue to do so for many months to come. Moreover the prices at which we are selling the finished articles to-day are not based on anything like the prices of raw materials asked at the present time. For example we could not quote for future delivery of cloth No.——, 3/6 a yard advance.

"There will be a very large influx of buyers in this market from all parts of the world, and as price seems unmaterial in certain markets, there will be a very great clearance of goods at high prices.

HIGH WAGES TO STAY.

Five days later came the following from an exporting firm:-

"..... I cannot see any easing in the prices. I have just had quotations from our cotton manufacturers for one or two of our standard cloths, and to-day's price (December 16) shows an advance of 30 per cent on that of a year ago. One factor must not be overlooked—that the high rate of wages has come to stay.

"As regards the limit to advance, nobody can be reckoned out of it for the next two years. In past times a large quantity of yarn and flax came from Russia, but now it appears to me to know whether Russia has the flax or whether Germany has taken it. One thing is very evident, prices for the best goods will be very high for some time to come."

CLOTHING THE DEMOBILISED MEN.

In reference to the woollen industry, the problem of providing "civies for soldiers" is no small one. Having clothed the Boers, and to some extent those of our Allies, with garments of a quality never equalled in warfare, attention in Manchester House with a view to Production has been turned to the problem of re-clothing the demobilised men.

Sir Charles Oakes, the head of this great organisation recently said on this subject:-

Doctor GARBOLA
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.

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.

ABBAS HILMI AND THE ENTENTE.

The ex-Khedive's conduct has been given great publicity to in the Cavallini trial now proceeding at Rome, and the accused has made a complete statement of his relations with Abbas Hilmi. He maintained that he had acted as the instrument of the ex-Khedive in the hope of reconciling the latter with the Entente, and that a journalistic campaign in France was undertaken with this object. An interesting point was his assertion that one of his reasons for supporting the ex-Khedive was the latter's friendship for Italy. Cavallini quoted the British Ambassador at Rome as being actively in the movement for reconciling the ex-Khedive with Great Britain and supported his connection by a telegram from the ex-Deputy Brunicardi (one of the accused) who says that he had an interview with Sir Rennell Rodd. Brunicardi also claimed to have effected a reconciliation with various Italian Ministers. Cavallini maintains that both the ex-Khedive and himself broke off relations with Bolo when they suspected that he was working on different lines from themselves.

ACID STOMACHS ARE DANGEROUS.

COMMON SENSE ADVICE BY A DISTINGUISHED SPECIALIST.

"Acid" stomachs are dangerous because acid irritates and inflames the delicate lining of the stomach, thus hindering and preventing the proper digestion of the stomach, and leading to nine-tenths of the cases of stomach trouble from which people suffer. Medicines and medicinal treatments are useless in such cases, for they leave the source of the trouble, the acid in the stomach, as dangerous as ever. The acid must be neutralised, and its formation prevented, and the best thing for this purpose is half a teaspoonful of bisurated magnesia, a simple antacid, taken in a little warm or cold water after eating, which not only neutralises the acid, but also prevents the fermentation from which acidity is developed. Foods which ordinarily cause greatest distress can be eaten with impunity if the meal is followed with a little bisurated magnesia, which can be obtained of any chemist, and should always be kept handy.

NOTICE.

The Alexandria Supplies Control Commission gives notice that applications for the purchase of Tiba will be received at the Office of the Commission up to January 24, 1919.

Applications should be made by letter and must state the number of animals kept and the maximum quantity of Tiba required per month. 63832—1.

FRATTA.
Fratta Natural Purgative Water is superior to all other brands. Obtainable everywhere. Agents: Alfredo Beer, Tel. No. 32, Cairo.

SANTI'S RESTAURANT.
The Oldest French Restaurant in Cairo is open throughout the winter months.
In the middle of the Ezbekieh Gardens.
Special arrangements for Officers.
PHONE 2744.

SAVOY HOTEL.
LUXOR, Upper-Egypt.
First Class Hotel. Unrivalled Situation.
Splendid View over the Nile Valley.
Orchestra daily during afternoon.
Tea and Dinner.
Special Rates for Military and Nurses.

SPATHIS MINERAL WATERS ARE THE BEST. (ADVT).

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