EGYPTIAN COTTON EXPORT.

GRIEVANCE OF THE SMALLER FIRMS.

In reference to the articles and the correspondence in our columns during the past few days on the action taken by the Cotton Control Commission towards the smaller export firms, we have frequently been asked the same question in various forms, which may thus be summarised:—

"How can it be that the cotton trade in Egypt, which has been absolutely free from restrictions since it first started, should now be hampered by measures which are not fair on the grounds that there is a war on, and although the reason for this war is a struggle on behalf of liberty and to protect the rights of mankind, yet so far as regards the cotton trade the consequences are diametrically opposed to these principles?"

If we could give any satisfactory solution as to what are the real reasons that have inspired the line of policy taken by the Cotton Control Commission towards the smaller firms, it would have been a mere waste of time to have devoted so much space to the subject, and we shall be only too pleased, as will also be our readers, if the Commission would make public a statement on this matter, since it is of such great importance to so many firms. It is to be hoped that the Commission will take this grievance into serious consideration and thus remove a grave source of discontent by abolishing these restrictions and will allow the trade to pursue its business unhampered by needless trammels.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market was weak yesterday and there was a general but slight fall. The following were the officially quoted prices:

Agricultural Bank dropped 1/64 to £6 25 32 1/64, transactions being done at that price and at £6 13/16.

Credit Foncier bonds issues 1886, 1903 and 1911 were at fr.291, 291 1/2 and 280 respectively.

Business was done in Cimphor Fonta nier which dropped 1/32 closing at £1 1/2.

National Bank dropped 1/16 to £20 1/8.

Cascade Sonto remained at fr.97 1/2.

Building Lands were in demand at £1 3/16 1/64 a drop of 1/64 transactions being done at £1 27/32 and 1 13/16 3/128.

Check Fadl rose half a franc to fr.110 1/2.

Union Foncière d'Egypte dropped 1/32 to £3 3/4, business being done at that price and £3 3/4 1/64.

There were some transactions in Gabbari Land which dropped 1/64 to £1 1/8.

Société Foncière d'Egypte dropped an eighth closing at £7 5/8.

Deferred Trams d'Alexandrie were offered at fr.166 a franc drop.

Old Khedivial were at 61/2, 60 1/2 a drop, transaction being done at 62 3/4, 62/64 62 and 61 3/4.

There was some business in Nungovich Hotel which dropped 1/32 closing at £7 7/32 transactions being done at that price and at £7 3/16.

Importation transactions were done in Salt and Soda which dropped 1/4 1/2d. closing at 60 1/4 1/2d. business being done at 63/6, 63/6, 63 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63 1/2, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63 1/2, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63 1/2, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63 1/2, 63/7 1/2, 63/6, 63 1/2, 60/10 1/2.

Filatures Nationales rose 1/4 to £37 1/4. Brasseries d'Egypte remained unchanged at fr.380, Cotton Ginners at £1 1/8, and Alexandria Rambeh Railways at £5 3/4.

Port Said Salt dropped 5/8d. closing at 119, business being done at 121/9, 121/6, 121/-, 120/9, 120/-, 119/-, 118/-, 117/6, 117/6, 117/-, and 116/-.

Land Bonds issues A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, were in demand at £1 3/8 an eighth rise.

There was some business in New Egyptian Gas, which dropped 1/4 1/2d. to 22/1 1/2, transactions being done at 22/6, 22/1 1/2, 22/3 and 22/1 1/2d.

Splendid rains have fallen in Queensland and in many part of New South Wales, especially in the north-west which was suffering most from drought.

Exports of pork and pork products from Canada have been increased by 125,000,000lb. annually, which is 571 per cent over the average for the five years previous to the war.

It is stated that the outbreak of cholera at Stockholm appears now to have been finally overcome.

For perfect tea, pastry and cakes, go to LIPTON'S ORIENTAL TEA ROOMS AND GARDENS, Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, the most popular rendez-vous in Egypt. American Bar, Arabesque Room and Restaurant. Music: 5 to 9 p.m.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

OFFICIALS' BAD MANNERS.

The "Ahaly."— Many junior officials of the Government, especially those who are in contact with the public behave so rudely in carrying out their duties that on many occasions they bring difficulties on the Government as a result of their conduct. One of the latest events, which gives an idea of such matters, is the case of a well-known merchant of Alexandria who was at Benha recently when he had some trouble with the railway station officials. He went to the station in good time to leave by the Saidi train (that comes from Upper Egypt returning to Alexandria, and he ordered a ticket about 20 minutes before the arrival of the train, at the station. The ticket clerk refused to give the ticket, and as he brought the matter before the Mouwin of the station, the latter spoke rudely to him. At last the merchant went to a First Class carriage and explained that he would pay the price of the ticket according to the rules. But the mouwin objected and ordered the station porters to bring the passenger out of the waggon and the merchant had to leave the train. An official examination was consequently held by the police into the matter and the merchant began to take proceedings against the mouwin and the Railway Administration.

WHY, OH WHY?

The "Afkar."— (From an article discussing the difference between Alexandria under a Municipality and Cairo which has no Municipality)— The Alexandria Municipal Commission stands against the Water Company entirely in order to safeguard the interest of the city. The Municipality has already fought against fortune telling and mendicity, paid particular attention to public health question, watched the food stuff market, and every now and then it destroys big quantities of bad food and continues to supervise merchants in order to prevent excessive business. Feeling pity for the poor in these days the Municipality has set up soup kitchens for them and done many other good deeds which have brought about useful results. As for Cairo, the city is dirty, as the Public Health confesses in its report; and the moral situation is intolerably degrading. Neither the Azhar University's instructions, nor the Police Orders have been strong enough to cope with the social evils. Why should we continue to see so many sorcerers in the streets, and in houses? And why should Zar ceremonies be allowed to be held in all quarters? Why should wailing women follow the dead and fill the town with mournful demonstrations? Why should immoral females continue to dance and sing in public places, even in the presence of the police?

THE HOUSING CRISIS.

The "Mokattam."— (A letter to the editor from a correspondent)— It appears that the destruction is not confined to belligerent countries where armies are fighting, for we see our peaceful and quiet country undergoing something of the same kind. Some of us have begun to pull down buildings, for no other purpose than to profit by the building materials obtained from them, though this tends to cause loss to others. Building materials are scarce in these days, and you rarely see new buildings under construction, so while our buildings have ceased to increase owing to the shortage of materials, we lose some of our existing houses. If this state of things should last long what would become of us? Where are we to shelter? I therefore beg to attract the Government's attention to this matter in the hope that it will set a limit to this activity, and that it is worth the Government's while to prevent pulling down houses, for, otherwise, it might be compelled to erect new houses even for temporary use in order to avoid the danger of a house famine, especially so far as the poorer classes are concerned.

STILL IN THE AIR.

"Wady el Nil."— Our representative had an interview yesterday with the Minister of Finance at his office in the Government House at Bulkley with regard to the war allowance proposed to be given to Government officials. In reply to a question as to what has been done in this matter, the Minister said "No decision has been reached as yet."

GOOD EFFECT OF OPPOSITION.

The "Watan."— (From an article commenting on a telegram announcing the result of the Meglis el Milli election at Alexandria, to the effect that Wahba Ibrahim Bey, of the Customs Administration, Judge Takla Bey Milkal of the Native Court, Iskander Effendi Fahmy, president of the Hellenic Septic Society, and Kamel Effendi Ayyad, of the Municipality, have been elected a member of the Alexandria Meglis el Milli)— With reference to the above result, we should like to remark that the keen effort made by the Coptic societies in Alexandria have had a great effect upon the election. The new members are the same candidates offered by these societies for election and this shows that the other party which represented the government and behind the scenes with the object of inflicting defeat on them has been defeated. This gives another proof that opposition to societies which direct their attention towards useful objects brings about good results. A proper use would like to discuss the causes of dulness prevailing in the Coptic community in the mondiriehs of Gharbieh and Menoufieh. The rest of it in Tanta, the capital of Gharbieh, which has a large number of Copts, among its population, but no Coptic society like one of the societies flourishing in Alexandria.....

COPTIC CATHOLICS AND THEIR DOINGS.

"Misr."—(A letter from a Catholic Copt of Nekada, in the mondirieh of Kena, Upper Egypt.)— Last year, it may be remembered, I reported to your journal the death of a Catholic monk of Nekada, and remarked that the priest of the Luxor Catholic church had refused to officiate at his funeral unless paid L.E. 10 for the service. In vain people asked the priest to conform to the religious rites without paying so far fabulous sum, and the body had at last to be buried without any religious ceremony at all. Now I would like to state that the same clergyman has deprived a Catholic Coptic family of its bread winner at Nekada, having enticed him to abandon his house and children in the village shortly after the death of their mother, and to live at Luxor with a new wife, without providing for his children. The man consequently began to spend all his earnings on his new house forgetting his religious duty towards those motherless children left at Nekada. I beg to call the attention of Anba Ophanius Bishop of Tiba and Upper Egypt to this matter.

PROPOSALS FOR THE CAPITULATIONS COMMISSION.

The "Ahram."— A propos of a statement published by a local contemporary that it is proposed to fix 21 years for the attainment of full legal age in the new laws of personal status, I remember that, about 10 years ago, when the Minister of Justice drew up a new law for the Megalis el Hibbeh (pl. of Meglis el Hisby) it was stated the following in Article for minority in Art. I.:— "A minor is every person, male or female, who is less than 21 full Hegira years old. The rules stipulated in the Personal Status law in this respect must also be taken into consideration." With regard to the guardianship of minors to which the fathers are entitled the Art. 19 of same law runs as follows:— "The father's guardianship comes to an end either when the minor attains the age of 21 Hagira years, or when the father dies." I understand that the projected law in question is one of the collection of laws and regulations submitted for consideration to the committee organised for the unification of laws and legal systems in Egypt, and it consists of about 200 articles.

A GOOD WHEAT CROP.

"Wady el Nil."— "Wheat is abundant and there is no fear of the occurrence of a food crisis," said the Supplies Control Board recently in its official reply to a letter sent to it by the Governor of Alexandria regarding the present difficulty. This statement must be taken as undoubtedly correct, and it behoves us to keep it in mind for future reference whenever we see tricks played by greedy persons in connection with the food question before the appearance of the forthcoming crop, for the S.C.B. assures us that the abundance of wheat does not justify the occurrence of a crisis... The S.C.B. has already delegated a committee of merchants under the chairmanship of one of its members to purchase wheat and dhra from the provinces for the purpose of distributing grain among merchants whenever a crisis threatens to take place.....

E.S.R.'s NEGLECT OF TRAINS.

The "Mokattam."— If we excuse the Railway Administration for using fewer trains owing to the want of locomotives and waggons and to the rise in the price of coal, we cannot excuse it for the signs of neglect which show themselves in its trains. This remark applies to all trains with the exception of the express trains which run on the three lines between Cairo and Alexandria, Cairo and Port Said, and Cairo and Luxor. A gentleman travelled recently by train to Lower Egypt tells us that spiders had spun web over the walls and the roofs of the second class cars of the train. The lavatory was so dirty that bad smells extended from it to the others cars. Why should this be the case, especially at a time like this while trains are crowded by passengers and fevers spread in the country?

CONDITION OF EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

The "Bassir."— The result of the Intermediate Certificate examination was so bad this year that the students who passed successfully were not more than 18 per cent. This result which startled the Ministry of Education and the public led to the organisation of a commission for the purpose of discussing the causes which had brought about such an unsatisfactory state of things; and we now hear that the Commission had decided to revive the Primary Education certificate. It is believed that this step will prevent unqualified students from joining the Government secondary schools. The decision clearly shows that the ordinary examinations which now take place in primary schools, especially the national schools which are not controlled by the Government, are not as strict as they used to be up to four years ago when the Primary certificate examination was an official undertaking. The Ministry of Education, will carry out the new decision in two years' time, but the modification is expected to be officially reported this year.

ALLOWED TO ENJOY HERSELF!

The "Afkar."— (A letter to the editor from Alexandria)— I was invited recently by a friend to go to one of the sea baths here, and I accompanied him. Of course we went to the part prepared for men, but though the cabins were full of clothes few men were swimming within the limits of the sea section below, and my friend told me that all the men were on the other side because the water where the women were swimming was clearer... My attention was specially attracted by a curious scene. A native woman wearing a thin bathing costume was swimming gaily in the middle of a ring of men... I also understood that the woman had a husband who was fond of sea bathing, and that the husband allowed his wife to enjoy swimming freely.....

THE DECIMAL COINAGE.

(To the Editor "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — Whilst admitting from a theoretical, or high finance point of view, that the decimal coinage would offer great advantages, yet it is still open to argument whether the practical results would be of benefit to the mass of the people.

Your correspondent, Jerry, says that it would benefit the working classes, for as he says, now, if a penny article is raised in price, it must go to three halfpence, whereas with a decimal coinage a smaller increase could be made. That is unquestionably in theory, but what is the practice? We find in countries that have already adopted the decimal system, that the small coins tend to fall into desuetude, and that one is left with comparatively high sums to work with. In Egypt although we have millimes, yet for anything except very petty trading amongst the natives they are a dead letter. A tradesman if he finds that he cannot continue to sell a certain thing at a piastre, straightway charges one and a half, if he is honest, or two if otherwise, though twelve millimes might give him a fair profit. We have had a very concrete example here in Egypt, in the case of our much esteemed journal, whose price has leapt up by piastre jumps, not millieme steps. In France also I think I am correct in saying; that centimes are never used in practice, and that the lowest coin used is the sou; in fact that seems to be the small trader's standard coin, for on enquiring the price of an article, or a newspaper, or a tramfare, one hears, or thirty eight sous as the case may be.

In the U.S.A., at any rate in the Western States, the case is infinitely worse, for there the cents are practically out of circulation, has fallen into desuetude, and the five cent nickel is the smallest coin that is actually current, and all fares and prices are in multiples of the nickel. Or to put it into English, the price of an article, or a newspaper, or a tramride, is either 2 1/2d., or 5d., or 7 1/2d., and so on. The result is that if the nominal price of an article, say, eighteen cents a pound, a customer does not ask for half a pound, but for a quarter of a pound, and the shopman has to give him five ninths of a pound. The other alternative, which is probably more often resorted to, is for the shopman to call the price twenty cents. The net result is in the first case, more trouble in calculation and weighing out for the shopkeeper, (which the decimal system is supposed to save) and in the second case the customer loses the cents on the pound. In England, farthings should surely supply the smallest gradation of price that we need, yet we find they are a dead letter, only ranking with a packet of pins as draper's change.

The advocates of the 1000 mil sovereign, should remember that it can only be halved three times, viz., 500, 250, and 125, whereas the 960 farthing sovereign, can be halved six times, viz, 480, 240, 120, 60, 30, and 15. The shilling has four multiples, viz. 6, 4, 3, and 2, whereas ten has only two, viz 5 and 2. Also ten can only be halved once, and even one hundred only twice, without going into fractions.

I do not pretend to be a political economist, but I think the following considerations are worthy of consideration: (1) that in all coinages the smaller coins tend to fall into disuse, in exact ratio to their inferiority of the people using them, and that prices increase by units of the smallest coin left. (2) That prices of goods tend to adjust themselves to the coinage rather than the coinage expressing the legitimate price of the goods.

It is to be hoped that no change will be made in the British coinage, before there has been exhaustive enquiry by bankers and merchants, who are not financiers, as to the effects of the decimal system in those countries that have already adopted it.

Yours, &c.,
Vicrea L. Taurens.

Port Said, September 8.

EGYPT'S CLIMATE.

ITS EFFECT UPON EUROPEANS.

THE CHANCES OF PERFECT HEALTH.

(By a Correspondent)

Europeans in Egypt blame the climate for all the ills that flesh is heir to. Is this just? Is it a fact that an Englishman, for instance, has less chance in this country than in those of being in that perfect state of health which is above wealth? I reply, no; the first is not just, and the second is not a fact.

The climate, however, must be qualified if the individual has some weak point in his constitution, if he indulges in alcohol or smoking to excess, or does not attend to the simple laws of health that are the defence of human intelligence against the ill-effects of the unnatural conditions of life that have come with an ever-increasing remoteness from the animal existence by reason of the refinements of civilisation.

Every climate has drawbacks. There are countries where men are frequently frozen to death, and others where now and again they are engulfed in earthquakes. I agree, however, with those who will wish to point out that the simple fact of the small likelihood of either of those misfortunes in Egypt does not prove that my opinion of the climate of Egypt is the right one. The trouble is in the mind, lies in the fact that so many people are not willing to accommodate themselves to the climate. Full of the energy begotten of a birthplace in a temperate or cold climate, they are not sensible at first of the great power of the sun and of the great difference of the temperature of the air to which they are subjected. They therefore expose themselves and forget to adapt their mode of life. On the other hand there are timid beings who spend their waking hours in "adapting" themselves, their miserable families, and their surroundings to the conditions of the "tropical" climate they fondly imagine that of Egypt to be. The "golden mean" between the rash people and the fearful ones is, I venture to say, the road to health in Egypt.

Certain simples rules must be obeyed. It its not so long since every illness which occurred in warm countries was attributed to climatic causes, instead of—as it should have been in the majority of cases—to the flagrant breach of laws of health. The worst of these offenses are over-eating, immoderate use of alcohol, lack of exercise and also of sleep.

As regards food there is no particular need to be sparing, especially if a fair amount of work is to be done, but excess of animal food ought to be avoided, for no one will dispute that digestive powers are lessened here. Thirst is increased, as so much fluid is expended by the skin in the effort to maintain a normal body-temperature, but there is no need to have recourse to alcohol. It is good to follow the custom of the country in this, and make use largely of water, which has the fault only of being too abundant. Were it available, and free from bacilli, it would have not doubt it would be bottled and labelled and drunk with the most ecstatic gurglings. There is a kind of exhaustion in hot climates which presents a great temptation for a reviving peg of brandy or whisky. Weeks of living in a sort of Turkish bath caused by the high temperature of the air, the saturation of the air with moisture and the copious perspiration which the body is in are best endured without the assistance of any kind of thirst quencher which keeps a steady grip on you and is likely some day, to present a bill.

Those enjoy the best health in countries like Egypt who are fond of riding and outdoor exercise. Regular exercise of one kind—short of fatigue of course—is absolutely essential, and the temptation to be sedentary, which is every where must be resisted. Exercise stimulates the body—in a way that no nip or peg can imitate—to rid itself of effete matters. It improves digestion and thereby helps assimilation.

Another matter in which it seems advisable to follow the custom of the natives is in the taking of a siesta in the hottest hours of the day. A writer, speaking of India, has said:— "There is a southern proverb that, between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, only Englishmen and dogs are to be found abroad; and there is doubtless a good deal of truth in this as regards our countrymen, though the dictum is perhaps rather hard on the dog." From two to four would certainly be rather an extravagant sacrifice in deference to the much less arduous climate of Egypt, but still there is much to be said, even in this country, for a good nap, whilst the sun is doing its worst and every little effort made calls forth a deluge of perspiration. Sleep is important for maintaining good health in a warm climate. Insomnia is never most unsuitable and if kept up are almost certain to bring on a habit of sleeplessness, which is the very dickens.

There are mental considerations too in this question of keeping one's health in Egypt. We are amongst a people whose food, clothing, habits, customs, mode of thought and diseases are widely different from our own. The very terrain, and the general character of the plants and trees are a considerable change from those normally found in the temperate zone. These are factors which are bound to gradually affect the newcomer and they necessitate, themselves, a certain mental adjustment to new conditions on the part of the individual.

Despite the special need for care in adjusting ourselves, our lives and our surroundings to climatic conditions which are unlike our own, I assert that in Egypt one may enjoy a perfect state of health without any great thought or attention, but by going along lines of natural simplicity.

EGYPT AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

GRADUATES AND THE VOTE.

"Oxonian" writes to ask whether it is not a fact that University Graduates, resident in Egypt, will be entitled to vote at the forthcoming General Election? We presume that this may be so, but at any rate it is too late to apply, as August 31 was the last date for sending an application to the Registrar. Although the Representation of the People Act of this year has changed the whole basis of the University franchise, it is believed that generally realised that now every one who has taken any degree in Arts is entitled to be put on the register, whether he has kept his name on the books of the University or not.

Masters of Arts and Doctors of Divinity, Law, and Medicine, whose names were on the books of a college or hall, or of the non-collegiate students, at the time of the passing of the Act (February 6 last), need not apply for registration. Their names will be automatically transferred to the new register. All other graduates (B.A.'s as well as M.A.'s are now entitled to a vote) should write to the Registrar of the University, Oxford, so that the application may reach him not later than August 31: he will furnish a form of claim. This must be returned to the Registrar with a fee of £1. A name once placed on the register remains there for the voter's life without further payment. The poll will be taken by voting papers sent by post.

It may be necessary to remind graduates that a University vote may be recorded in addition to any other to which he is entitled, but no one may vote in more than two constituencies at the same General Election. In the event of a contest for the two University seats a voter can only vote for one candidate; but he has also a transferable vote, i.e., he may express his preference for a second candidate, which will take effect when the election of the candidate of his first choice has been secured.

We have not a copy of the Act, and the above details are taken from the London newspapers, and some exception may be made as regards overseas Graduates.

It is reported at the Hague that the difficulties which Germany has placed in the way of shipping between Scandinavia and Holland will shortly be removed.

WALK OVER SHOES IN CAIRO.

We are informed that Messrs. Morums Oriental Stores have taken over the business of the Walk-Over Shoe Company, next to Shepheard's Hotel, Cairo, and that they have received an immense shipment of Walk Over shoes during the last few days.

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