BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA LIMITED.

MR. LESLIE COUPER INTERVIEWED.

Mr. Leslie Couper C.M.G., General Manager of the above named Institution, is departing for England by the S.S. Princess Juliana. Seeing that one of our representatives, Mr. Couper stated that he had been much interested and impressed by his visit to Egypt, although, of course, the moment was unfortunate for a visitor desiring to move about and see the country under normal conditions. Mr. Couper declined to express any opinion upon the political situation, of which he was not competent to judge, except to say that, after four and a half years of storm, a ground swell must be expected in every area affected.

In regard to the Bank of British West Africa Ltd., Mr. Couper is satisfied as to its prospects in Egypt; the Bank had established in a modest fashion and proposed to proceed slowly but surely. A branch at Cairo would be opened, later in the year, in the Kasr-el-Nil.

Mr. Couper travels each year upon a visit to some of the Branches of his bank—West Africa, Morocco, New York — and hopes to pay frequent visits to Egypt which, he states, is less oriental than Morocco. The work the French are doing in that country is excellent, and a comparison between the opportunities for the British in Morocco, contrasted with the opportunities afforded to the French in Egypt, is a fair one for present and future study. The abrogation of the Capitulations would take place in Morocco at the same moment as in Egypt. The London Weekly Journal "Morocco," established some year or two ago, and owned mainly by merchants, although perfectly independent of any interests, so far as policy and expression of views are concerned, seemed to justify a weekly paper, published in London, dealing with Egypt.

In these days of rapidly improving communications, countries would come into new relation and competition no less than individuals. Neither soil or climate — not even Imperial Preference—would give security of markets; only by industry and progress could place be retained or improved. The British Empire knew too little about itself and the Press appeared to be the only Agent for spreading information. In England the interest displayed in the British colonies and protectorates was disappointing and our Crown Colonies especially had no spokesman and no good Press. Egypt has thousands of new friends, some of these the finest men that ever stepped off a transport, and an effort should be made to retain their interest in the country. A weekly newspaper, "Egypt" published in London, would appeal to many readers and not only to the merchant or the tourist.

In conclusion Mr. Couper stated he had been received with the greatest courtesy and hospitality; he had come as a stranger and felt that he was leaving many friends.

SULTAN HUSSEIN YACHT CLUB.

WEDNESDAY'S REGATTA.

The Sultan Hussein Yacht Club opened it racing season on Wednesday last by holding its first regatta, when the Commodore and members were "At Home" and the terraces of the Club were crowded to overflowing with the members and their guests. Unfortunately a strong north easterly wind sprang up during the afternoon and increased much in violence towards sunset. This made it very uncomfortable for visitors taking tea on the lawn and was a good trial for the yachts and yachtsmen on their first race after a year's enforced rest from sailing. It tested severely the yachts' rigging, etc. and there were several accidents. Of 16 yachts entered, 11 crossed the starting line and only 5 finished the race. Great credit being due to them. The Almagia Cup was won after a fine exhibition of sailing by Mr. Campurapoulo in the Bambee, closely followed by Mr. J. Chini in the Thetis. At the close of the racing the cup was very graciously presented to the winners by Mrs. Van Zeller.

By kind permission of the Officer Commanding the 53rd Divisional band of the Welsh their Band played during the afternoon. The following are the official times:-

Yacht	Start	Finish	Sailed By
	H.M.S.	H.M.S.	
Banshee	3.44.12	5.06.42	N. Campurapoulo
Thetis	3.34.07	5.07.12	J. Chini
Leda	3.34.01	5.09.47	W.C. Hornblower
No. 3	3.27.20	5.16.04	H. de Jenner
No. 5	3.26.40	5.20.22	disq. G. Lian
Lina	gave up		V. Adda
No. 7	gave up		K. Dowson
No. 4	Touched mark buoy		U. Lombardo
No. 1	gave up		O. Bless
Suzette	Carried shroude away—etc.		H. R. C. (Blagden
Waterwitch,	Tore her mainsail		F. Van Zeller (Bey

POLO AT THE G.S.C.

An individual polo Tournament will be held at the Gezira Sporting Club on Monday, May 19, and Wednesday, the 21st. Teams will be made up from the list of players who enter the tournament. Names should be sent to the polo secretary, Captain A. A. J. Allen, Headquarters, 31st Infantry Brigade, Naerieh Schools, Cairo ('Phone 5588) by May 14, 1919. Entrance fee P.T.25.

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EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE SAFE.

The "Ahram." — The Ministry of Agriculture has not published its monthly reports on the conditions of irrigation and local crops, for April and March last, owing to recent events and the interruptions between its headquarters and its inspectors in the provinces. But now, as communications have been re-established between Cairo and the Provinces, the Ministry will issue its report at the beginning of next month. It is understood from the various documents received by us from the provinces of both Lower and Upper Egypt that the recent events have had no effects upon cultivation and irrigation at all. A correspondent of the "Ahram" in the province of Sharkieh, writes to us from Alexandria that he recently went to the latter town on horseback from his Mudirieh and observed the fields on his way. The agricultural zones, he remarks, are in the best of conditions, and the cultivators there look to be very pleased with regard to the result of their work.

EGYPTIAN PETROLEUM.

The "Ahali" (from a leader under the heading "Our Loss and Profit").—Ask all those who have lived in Egypt, and ask the Egyptians themselves if they had ever believed before recent events that patriotic feeling was so deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and prevailing among all classes of the community, believed that illiterate as it was clearly manifested in these events, and all will say to you that that patriotic feeling is the most marvellous thing they have seen in their life. It is evident that the self-respect, and aspirations on the part of foreigners which have been won by Egyptians in this movement is as high as the degree of the manifested feeling. This we will a profit offered to us by recent circumstances because Europe and the Europeans hardly believed that Egypt—that country sinking in the gloom of ancient times—had dissipated that gloom and emerged to avail itself of the light of the twentieth century. We even call it a treasure, for we, ourselves, had many pessimists amongst us who were unaware that the blood of a new life was circulating in Egypt. Many of us entertained good faith regarding this sort of life but had no idea of the amount of its vigour in the community; they were inclined to believe that the New Life was still far from our own. But now all this pessimism and hesitation has disappeared. Life itself has removed misconception. If patriotic sentiment is the source of many characteristics which mark noble life, it must be so in us. We may also count as advantages of life the sinking of religious differences, the fraternization of both native elements of Europeans, the mutual support among the classes of the people, educated and illiterate, rich and poor, officials and idle, merchants and laborers. We may also refer in this respect to the appearance of the Egyptian woman beside the man in the field of action, and the feeling of sacrifice (the absence of which) was the biggest defect attributed to the Egyptians... It is impossible to say that these qualities have occurred suddenly in the nation—they must have been growing gradually for a long time past before they reached the present stage....

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN PARIS.

The "Watan" (from an article commenting on a Havas Telegram from Paris about the entertainment given by the Egyptian Delegation to the British and American journalists).— No wonder if our journals appear with rare or short news about the Egyptian Delegation. We have to submit to the requirement of circumstances and the judgment of time; we feel delighted when special sources or telegraphic agencies bestow a bit of news upon us. We feel so to-day as we have a Havas message stating that the Egyptian Delegation has given a lunch to the representatives of the English and the American press in Paris—those representatives who have come to Paris in order to report to their journals the proceedings and decisions of the Peace Conference. On the surface of it this banquet does not refer to anything unusual, but if we remember that simple things may lead to more important affairs, we see that the members of the Conference (the question) have entered the stage of action through the door. The Press in every civilised nation is the only trumpet that conveys a voice to the hearts of men, and is the mirror that reflects the will of communities, and the moral power that employs material powers.... We like the step, for the giving of a banquet to the delegates of the press of England and America indicates the good tact and sound policy of the Delegation. This does not mean that the Egyptian Deputation will not try to win the sympathy of the French and Italian press, but means that our men have started to deal with the Press of the two countries upon which the Egyptians attach all their hopes, and this is a sort of courtesy and good tact; for after relying on Allah and upon ourselves we really rely on the genuine freedom of England and her honest and liberal public opinion, accompanied by noble traditions, and upon America and its principles incorporated in Mr. Wilson's 14 points... Our readers must not imagine that the Egyptian Delegation is only giving banquets in Paris. There are many ways open before it for action, but we are not in a position to know anything about its deeds until some result or trace of them shows itself. We must be content with the news that leaks out to us in this respect, awaiting the details which will come in time.

COPTIC WOMEN.

"Misr" (a letter from "Alice M."). — In compliance with the call made by our dear motherland and in realisation of the wave accompanying the acts of the Egyptian woman for the promotion of the dignity of the country, and in accomplishment of the efforts made by the New Woman Society, we have thought of setting up a social society for the women to follow the example of the former one in doing its duties towards our beloved nation. Our society is to be a purely patriotic society to deal with the various affairs tending to raise the Egyptian girl to a higher level and to work together in giving help for carrying out useful national schemes. We welcome every native girl who wishes to join our organisation.

NOTICE TO ITALIAN IRREDENTISTS.

All Austrian subjects residing in Alexandria who have obtained "favourably known" certificates from the Italian Consular Authorities since the outbreak of war are required to present themselves at the Registration of Enemy Subjects Office of this Governorate (3rd floor) any day between 9 a.m. and 12 noon or between 5 and 7 p.m.

A HOME MAIL.

The latest times, for posting at Alexandria, for the next British mail, via Port Said and Marseilles, are:— Ordinary correspondence, Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m.; parcels post letters and insured articles, Friday, May 9, 8 p.m.; money orders and parcels, Friday, May 9, 6 p.m.

Machinery installed in a Maidstone factory to make tin containers for gun charges is now turning out tin kettles.

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TOURIST TRAFFIC PROSPECTS.

The following is the nineteenth annual report of the Board of Directors, which was presented at the ordinary meeting of shareholders, held at the Company's head office, 4, Sharia Maghraby, on Thursday last, the 8th inst.

The Military Authorities having released all the company's tourist steamers, it is proposed while restoring them to their original status to introduce at the same time such improvements as will make them favourably compare with any other steamers on the Nile, so as to render them as comfortable as possible for those travelling under the auspices of the company. We intend to build on every tourist boat a certain number of "cabines de luxe" and suites which formerly did not exist and which were in great demand. As soon as the negotiations now in course with the Military Authorities are satisfactorily settled on the basis of the award of the Permanent Arbitration Board, we shall forthwith proceed with the work so that the steamers may be in readiness for the regular tourist traffic next season. The company intend to lease spacious premises in the Sharia-el-Manakh and to advertise extensively. Agents will be appointed in all parts of the world so as to push the tourist traffic business generally. For this purpose the directors have convened an extraordinary general meeting in order to alter the present title of the Company to the "ANGLO AMERICAN NILE & TOURIST COMPANY," which will emphasise more fully the nature of the company's business.

All the company's freight craft have been profitably engaged either on the Shellal-Halfa reach, or for the transport of liquid fuel and others are still under charter by the Military Authorities. The result has been most satisfactory. The Shabra works have been very productive under the able management of our manager of works, Mr. Leo. Cole. In view of the developments, which it is expected, will take place in the country in the near future, the directors feel confident that there are good prospects for an extensive trade in all sorts of engineering stores, and other articles connected with engineering work, and it is therefore intended to expand this branch of the Company's business, which is hoped will yield good results.

One thousand shares invested by us in this company, have been sold at an average of P.T. 350 per share and the remaining 1091 shares are shown in the balance-sheet at last years valuation, viz, P.T.205 without appreciation. The Company still hold L.E.2,540 worth of 6 per cent debentures in the company.

The company's fleet has been maintained in good condition and L.E.4,112 have been spent for maintenance during the past year. The company's floating material, buildings, etc., have been depreciated by L.E.2,000.

The special reserve now stands at L.E.14,365 and the statutory reserve at L.E.16,411 to which, if the accounts are approved at this meeting, a further amount of L.E.1,550 will be added, namely: the 10 per cent on the year's profit, thus bringing up the total of the two reserves to L.E.32,336 equal to 25 per cent of the capital of the company, which according to article 36, parag. No.2, must not be exceeded.

The result of this year's working being so satisfactory, the Directors have granted their permanent staff a bonus equivalent to two months salary in recognition of their loyal services during the past year and in consideration of the increased cost of living.

Mr. Robert Diacono was appointed Managing Director immediately after the general meeting last year, in recognition of his long service and you are now requested to kindly confirm this appointment. Mr. Astley E. Friend and Mr. Robert Rolo retire by rotation, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

After provision for depreciation and maintenance, there remains a profit on the year's working of L.E.22,094 which the directors propose to dispose of in the following manner:

Total Profit	L.E. 22,094.263
5 o/o Dividend	,, 6,396.780
	L.E. 15,697.483
10 o/o Reserve	,, 1,550.748
	L.E. 14,046.735
10 o/o to Directors	,, 1,404.673
	L.E. 12,642.062
Amount brought forward from last year	,, 4,288.382
	L.E. 16,930.444
7 o/o supplementary dividend	,, 8,955.492
Carried forward	L.E. 7,974.952

In view of the decision taken by the shareholders at the last general meeting to increase the supplementary dividend from 2 o/o to 4 o/o the amount carried forward from last year was L.E. 4,288.382 m/m. and not L.E. 8,126.450 m/m. as shown in the printed report.

The profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1919, was as follows:—

Debitor.	L.E. M.
To General Expenses, being proportion not charged direct to Freight, Tourist Service and Workshops	1,626.573
,, Directors' Fees	576.875
,, Lawyers and Auditors' Fees	219.375
,, Insurance Premiums	1,114.962
,, Depreciation written off	2,885.298
,, Reserve for bad debts	300.000
,, Balance carried to balance sheet	22,004.263
	L.E. 31,725.332
Creditor.	L.E. M.
By Profit from General Business	29,048.454
,, Dividends from investments	2,425.997
,, Interest of Bank Account	250.901
	L.E. 31,725.352

MILITARY WEDDING AT MUSTAPHA.

On Wednesday morning, the 7th inst., at St. Sebastian's (Catholic) Garrison Church, Mustapha, with the Rev. Father P. N. Northcote, M.C., C.F., officiating, a marriage which excited a great deal of interest in Military circles was solemnised. The contracting parties were Miss K. Chancellor, youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. T. Chancellor, and of Mrs. Chancellor, of Dunshinshi, and Capt. Harold White, R.G.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. White of Manchester. At the Church there was a fashionable and representative gathering, including many members of the Catholic Sailors' and Soldiers' Club, Alexandria, with whom the bride has gained much popularity by her untiring efforts to minister to their social needs, and by her unfailing generosity and cheerfulness. There were also present many brother officers of the bridegroom. The bride was given away by Mr. H. Harrington, the bridesmaids were the Misses Nora and Elsie Chancellor (sisters of the bride) and the groom was attended by Capt. A. Francis, M.G.C. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the happy couple passed to their car through a guard of Honour composed of N.C.O.'s and men of the bridegroom's Unit, and drove off amidst showers of congratulations and many expressions of the heartfelt good wishes of their friends. Later, a reception was held at the Regina Palace Hotel. The honeymoon is being spent at Cairo and Port Said.

Extension of the compassionate grounds on which men can be released from the Army is under consideration.

FOREIGN FIRMS IN EGYPT.

BRITISH RETAILERS NEEDED.

A correspondent contributes the following article to the "Times" Commercial Supplement:-

It is stated that in 1914 Egyptian imports (merchandise) amounted to some 22 millions sterling, and the exports to 24 millions. In a prosperous year as much as 50 millions may pass through the Egyptian Customs.

Substantial profits are made by the firms exporting raw cotton or cereals, and by those importing coal, machinery, metals, textiles, paper, furniture, etc., and by the shipowners. In addition there is also the local profit obtained in the handling of the goods, by agents and retailers. These local profits from British and foreign goods run into many millions annually. The unfortunate fact is that only a small proportion of this sum is earned by natives of the United Kingdom owing to their limited number. British influence is due to a well-known group of merchant princes who are also recognized for their solid worth as leaders of society. The Anglo-Egyptian officials do not take part in trade.

THE EMPLOYEES.

A British firm at home buys up an alien firm at Alexandria, but the hundred members of the staff, cash and counter, remain as before. Jew and Greek and Levantine, instead of a score of British men and women being brought from home. The same is true of British merchants who have established large shops for tailoring, boots, hats, ties and games: nearly all the shop-assistants are foreign. Hundreds of tons of British books and publications, biscuits, preserves, confectionery, are sold by foreigners; scarcely an Englishman is to be seen. An Italian shop is filled with British furniture from the best London houses; Levantine chemists make a substantial living out of British patent medicines. The British seem to have but a negligible share in the retail trade of their own manufactures, an item which may be valued at a million sterling a year. The reason may be that, where a Levantine spends a shilling, the Englishman spends half a crown. Take two senior clerks, British and Levantine, earning three or four hundred a year; the Levantine carefully lives up to his income and saves little; the latter lives on half his pay and is worth a thousand pounds at the end of ten years. He invests his money, shares in a contract, grows rich, educates his son, dowers his daughter; the Englishman has disappeared, forgotten.

THE NON-OFFICIAL ENGLISHMAN.

Hefein lies the problem of our future in Alexandria; if English people must live on a higher scale with regard to food and clothing, there is no chance for them as a civilian non-official community, and a glance through the names reveals the fact that, after some ten leading merchants, you can count a second twenty on a smaller scale, and a third twenty of senior employees, a total of 50 who might be summoned for a general debate.

The urgent need is plenty of new blood free from prejudice; this would be the best export from the United Kingdom, more valuable to the national interests than an increase in manufactures, because an influx of Ottoman subjects, Armenians, Jews, Syrians, may further reduce our percentage.

SHIPPING AND COASTING TRADE.

Complaints have been made that the Greeks are buying up inferior British ships very cheaply and running them at low rates in the Eastern Mediterranean; this trouble may increase owing to the higher wages demanded by British seamen under the Board of Trade Articles of Agreement, but the fact remains that any company at Alexandria must rely on Greeks and Arabs for the greater part of its officers and men. Great Britain cannot spend her money in trying to maintain her maritime supremacy at Alexandria.

AGENCIES.

Except for some sugar refineries in Upper Egypt, there are no manufacturers in Egypt, at least for export; all the trade in and out is that of the middleman or commission agent, whether his profits are £50,000 or £500 a year; there are no iron-masters, shipbuilders, or weavers of fabrics. Egypt produces no minerals or metals, only cotton and cereals, eggs, onions, etc. Thus the imports bought in Manchester pass through agents, who reap a handsome profit from 10 per cent. upwards.

A Levantine with low pay as manager of a passenger agency resigns and sets up on his own account as a commission agent; a few years later he is making a thousand a year over British odds and ends, scrap picked up here and there and handled with patience and economy. A young Levantine clerk on £50 a year writes many letters to England, offering his services for the introduction of rubber tyres, buttons, tools, anything; for a time he is a failure, but before long he has found the right article and is realising an income of £500 a year and employs a clerk of his own. The names of British agents born in the United Kingdom and doing business as individuals are very few indeed. It may be said that the question of retail trade and agency is a trifle as compared with that of the immense volume of the British wholesale trade; but Great Britain's future in coal, machinery, textiles, and shipping is by no means assured on the Egyptian market. It is possible that she may lose ground owing to the keen rivalry after the war. Without a steady commercial immigration from home British influence in Alexandria may gradually decrease.

ISLAM AND THE WAR.

In the March number of the "British Empire Review" Mr. Roland L. N. Michell, C.M.G., thus begins an article called "The Attitude of Islam":—

"The war has put all Moslem nations, more or less, to the test, and has settled in its course a few questions regarding which some doubts existed. The first related to the effect which Turkeys' entry into the struggle would have upon the more powerful and homogeneous communities.

He then discusses the German attempt to bring about a Pan-Islamic movement against the Entente:—

Considerable regret was felt in Britain for the people of Turkey; for it was clear that the "suicidal folly" which betrayed the nation and Islam at Constantinople was the act of the self-styled "Committee of Union and Progress," i.e., the corrupt, pro-German Enver clique, which controlled the army and consequently the Sultan and his people, as clearly seen by the best men of the Ottoman Empire. The reply was prompt and decisive. The action of Turkey was universally denounced.

"But the writer points out that Moslem leaders condemned the action of Turkey. After referring to the attitude of other Moslem nations, he continues with this informative paragraph.

One matter of considerable interest related to the Senussi bodies in North Africa. Some years ago alarmists drew pictures of the vast armed forces and latent power of the Senussi Sheikh, who only awaited the right moment to strike. The Sheikh was no doubt a "dark horse." But the Senussi were no friends of the Turks. Their aim was to drive the semi-infidel Ottomans out of Africa. For a time it appeared that Sheikh Ahmed's policy was to maintain friendly relations with Egypt and Great Britain, just as his father had refused to join the Mahdi and his "dervishes." Turco-German intrigue and gold, however, brought about an apparently half-hearted movement, which confirmed the views of those who were sceptical as to the fighting qualities of Senussi warriors, when opposed to modern arms. They learned a lesson from British troops. An agreement was arrived at between Britain and Italy in the summer of 1916. The Allied forces in North Africa suffice to keep the tribes in order. According to the latest accounts the Senussi desire to be on friendly terms with both France and Italy.

An ancient staircase has been discovered in the wall of Wakes Colne Church, Essex, which is believed to have led to a rood loft in pre-Reformation days or to a priest's hiding place in the troublous days which followed.

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