PETROLEUM FOR EGYPT.

GIANT STEAMER IN ALEXANDRIA HARBOUR.

3.000.000 GALLONS IN ONE HULL.

As soon as possible after the signing of the first armistice and the disappearance of the U-boat from the waters of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean the Vacuum Oil Company made arrangements for the replenishment of its tanks in Egypt, considerably depleted by the impossibility of getting tank steamers to Alexandria during hostilities for any other purpose than for the army and the navy, which naturally, in war time, must pass first. The first of the Vacuum Oil steamers to arrive in our port is the Paulsboro, a gigantic tank of over 6.000 tons, with a capacity of over 3.000.000 gallons and a huge pumping apparatus permitting the emptying of the whole of the liquid cargo into the Company's tanks at Gabbari, or elsewhere, in 24 hours.

The Paulsboro, although a new boat is a ship with a history. She was laid down in Philadelphia and her contract price was to have been a million and a half dollars, but war exigencies called for her more rapid completion so extra labour was put on so that at the time of her first commission she had cost two million dollars and was doing her best in snap places to prevent aggression. They, and the press too, have declared that it has never been the intention of anybody in Egypt to create disturbances in the country....

THE MOSLEMS AND COPTS.

"Wadi-el-Nil" (from an article on the fraternization of Moslems and Copts). — A melodious tune is being heard and gratifying reports are being made in these days regarding the fraternity exchanged by Moslems and Copts in the shade of this beloved homeland. The news reminds us of the old harmony which prevailed between the Egyptian and his brother under one unseparable nationality. Hamdu l'Illah we have returned to the commandments of the two sacred faiths. The Moslem and the Copt can now remember that Islam has inspired a sacred duty to its followers, that they ought to treat their neighbours, their compatriots, and those who associate with them in worldly affairs as they treat themselves, so that the non-Moslem might possess the same right as that possessed by the Moslem. The Moslem commits a sin if he is able sin if he violates the rights of his neighbour or compatriot because the latter adopts a different dogma. Both the Moslem and the Copt can equally remember that Christianity commands its followers to have the quality of forgiveness and to separate religious matters from worldly affairs. "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar, and unto God the things that are God's," is one of the Christian principles of the Moslem. The Moslem commits a sin if he is able sin if he violates the rights of his neighbour or compatriot because the latter adopts a different dogma. Both the Moslem and the Copt can equally remember that Christianity commands its followers to have the quality of forgiveness and to separate religious matters from worldly affairs. "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar, and unto God the things that are God's," is one of the Christian principles and "If one strikes you on the right cheek turn to him the left cheek," is another... Both the Moslem and the Copt ought to understand the commandments of their faiths and act according to them for they order that both should exchange sincere friendly relations. Now necessary it is for one Egyptian and another, having the same nationality to have mutual relations. If the Egyptian are, as all the descendants of one father and mother, they must be considered as cousins....

STRANDED OMDEHS.

The "Mokattam." — Several Omdehs of the provinces who came to Cairo shortly before the recent disturbances, have informed the authorities concerned that they have to remain in the capital owing to the interruption of communications for the last few days, and that they find difficulties in returning to their districts. The Omdehs request the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate their return as early as possible. Our requests have been placed under consideration.

MUSIC IN ALEXANDRIA.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,—It was unfortunate not able to be present at last Sunday's Symphony Concert but I cannot allow the remarks of your critic event the Beethoven Concert to pass without comment. I do not know exactly what he means by saying that the concerto gives "more scope for a display of brilliant technique than the more subtle and personal qualities," but if he means that Beethoven's well-known punctiliousness in the matter of marks of expression leaves very little doubt as to his real intentions he is thankful that it is so—that the exquisite simplicity and beauty of the subject matter is not lost in the wonderful development thereof can be interpreted by any artist of good technique without the necessity for the intrusion of any other personality than that of the immortal composer himself. As regards the technical difficulties I think I am right in saying that they are by no means so great as those of other well-known concertos written for Sunday's day-dodge Paderewski Brahms, Saint Saëns, and Elgar for instance, to mention a few of the better known.

Your critic again lays stress on "personality" in expressing a hope that Mlle. Drakidis will in future play "Hungarian Music" a Dvořák sketches; he is evidently of those who go to a concert more concerned as to the "personality" of the performer than as to the music he, or she, is to play. If Mlle. Drakidis has anything of her own compassion to play by all means let her put her personality into it and we will listen and applaud, but I am sure she will agree with me that music is meant to play the works of the great masters, or even of such a lesser light as Dvořák, she should put the whole of her talents and energy into giving the audience a correct an interpretation of the composer's ideas and intentions as possible, rather than any attempt at representing her own personality through the medium of their work.

A few weeks ago a concert of first-rate chamber music including the first of the "soul-soothing" quartetts of Beethoven was advertised but did not take place owing to want of support so that I infer that Alexandria is not educated to a very high musical standard, and is most likely to become a prey to artists probably advised to choose works more with a view to showing off their own "personalities" than for the intrinsic musical value of the works themselves.

Yours, etc.,
COMPOSER.

Alexandria, March 26.

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THE NATIVE PRESS

THE FAYOUM QUIET.

The "Ahram." — The Ministry of the Interior, yesterday, received lengthy reports from the Fayoum conveyed to Cairo by camel-men, giving details of the situation in that province. The reports show, we understand, that tranquillity is prevailing at present throughout the province, and that the recent rumours to the effect that the Bedouins intend to march on Wasta are absolutely untrue. One of the camel-men, describing the disturbances started by Arabs in the Fayoum region, states that all the events occurred successively in one day—the 10th inst.—when the railway lines were removed in all directions as far as Wasta. The most serious occurred at Fayoum itself and in the Markaz of Atsa. Youssbashi Mohamed Effendi Shukri, Commandant of the Police Corps, received a wire from the Fayoum from Fayoum and saw the authorities in the Ministry of the Interior, emphasising the statements contained in the official reports regarding the restoration of tranquillity to that region.

The "Ahaly" (from a leader under the heading "Egyptians and Order"). — We are very glad to read in the official reports issued by the Military authorities that tranquillity is returning to the country, and that the aggressive events which have occurred in the provinces are ceasing, giving place to natural peace, respect of laws, and hospitality towards guests, which are popular qualities of Egypt.... This report of the 24th inst. refers to the return of tranquillity, and the organisation by the fellahin themselves of guards to guard the railway lines, and protecting public property, and helping the Military authorities in the re-establishment of tranquillity and the removal of fears which have only lasted for a short time, fortunately. Of course some unfortunate incidents have taken place in the provinces, but the wiser people among the Egyptians have regretted their occurrence, absolved themselves of their results, and are doing their best in snap places to prevent aggression. They, and the press too, have declared that it has never been the intention of anybody in Egypt to create disturbances in the country....

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EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

AN OFFICIAL RECORD.

An important publication has just been issued by the "Egyptian Gazette" under the title of "A Brief Record of the Advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force" under the command of General Sir Edmund H.H. Allenby, July, 1917, to October, 1918." This work has been produced by the Government Press and the Survey of Egypt at Cairo and does, or its production does credit to the publishers. The object of the record of the recent activities of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force to the east of the Suez Canal is that members of that Force may be able to take home with them an acceptable account of the great advance in which they played a part. Advantage has been taken of many official documents and of the experience of officers still at General Headquarters in charge of the departments with the work of which they were familiar during the operations. Thus it has been possible to compile a record while the events which it details are fresh in the memory. The first part consists of General Allenby's despatches, and this is followed by the order of battle of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force with which are indicated the names of General Officers and a brief record of the service of the major formations. There are over fifty maps to describe the operations, and as each map faces the letter-press describing the operations reference is very easy.

From such a mass of interesting matter it is almost impossible to quote, but the following will give an idea of some of the causes which led to the final defeat of Turkey:

The Turkish lines of communication, which extended from Bozanti to Beersheba were under the Syrian Western Arabia Command, and the G.O.C. (Ahmed Jemal Pasha) did not work harmoniously with the Yildirim Army group as he was jealous because his command had been taken over by a foreigner.

The task of keeping up supplies, even under the best of conditions, was not an easy one, for at this time the Amanus and Taurus tunnels were incomplete and all supplies from west of Bozanti had to be unloaded, and either reloaded into narrow-gauge trucks, which were drawn by engines driven by compressed air, or transported by motor lorry or pack animals to the east end of the tunnels. The same procedure was adopted over the Amanus range, thus entailing four separate transhipments of all supplies. A further transhipment took place at Rayak owing to the change from the normal gauge line to the metre gauge of the Hejaz and Palestine railways.

"Thus the only means of communication for the Turks force in Palestine with their main base at Haidar Pasha (Constantinople Station in Asia), was by a single line of rail along the Hejaz Railway, which had in addition to carry all ordnance stores for the force in Mesopotamia, as far as Mushimie, and for the Hejaz, as far as Deraa.

"The rolling stock was neither good for un-, and the wood fuel which was used in place of coal did not tend to accelerate the service. An unknown number of a train being stopped between station so that the wood fuel could be chopped into pieces small enough to feed the fire. Numerous short lines were constructed for the purpose of bringing the requisite wood from the timbered areas. In order to release rolling stock, reinforcements frequently marched from Rayak to the front line, a distance of over 250 miles.

"In addition to the above difficulties, the inefficiency of Turkish officials and their amenity to bribery, made the supply and equipment of the Yildirim armies no easy problem."

The departure of the Turk from Jerusalem is thus described in subsequent pages:

"The nightmare was just passing away, but the Turk still lingered. In the evening he fired his guns continuously, and throughout the night was, the roar of the gunfire persuaded most citizens to remain indoors, and there were few to witness the last act of Ottoman authority.

"Towards midnight the Governor, Izzet Bey, went personally to the telegraph office, discharged the staff, and himself smashed the instruments and destroyed the wires. Next day fired Turks began to troops through the Jaffa gate from the west and southwest, and anxious watchers, peering through the windows of the Grand New Hotel to learn the meaning of the tramping, were cheered by the sudden remark of an officer, "Ultimate mesburat (We've got to go), and from 0200 till 0630 that morning the Turks streamed through and out of the city, which echoed for the last time their departing tramp.

"The Governor was the last civil official to depart. He left in a cart belonging to Mr. Ryan, an American resident, from whom he had borrowed an hitherto unrequisitioned cart and mules. Before he departed he hastened down the Jericho road, leaving him a letter of surrender, which the Mayor as the sun rose set out to deliver to the British commander, accompanied by a few frightened policemen holding two tremulous white flags. He walked towards the Turkish Hill and met the first representatives of the British Army on a spot which may be marked by the Cross with a white stone as the site of a historic episode.

"The last Turkish soldier is said to have left Jerusalem at 0630 on the last day of the city, which is named after St. Stephen, but the last rear guard stragglers were still trickling along the road just outside the north wall, requisitioning food and water at the point of the bayonet. Thus ended a reign of crime on the part of defeated troops, uncertain of their next meal, the greatest as the last kick of the dying Ottoman authority in a city where it had been supreme for four centuries."

The relations between the Germans and Turks are clearly discernible from the following, taken from the description of operations east of the Jordan:

"The respective enemy commanders were incensed in their letters of mutual complaints, multiplying their difficulties, and, in the case of the IVth and VIIth Army Commands, tendering their resignation on the grounds of neglect of their demands, and criticism of their conduct. The Commander of the IVth Army philosophically commences his reply to an adverse criticism by the German Commander-in-Chief—Liman von Sanders—with the remark, "In this fifth year of the war we are all accustomed to misunderstanding and friction." In this short sentence is gently expressed what was evidently the keen rivalry and bitterness between the Turkish and German Staffs and individual officers since the operations leading to the loss of Baghdad. The German's standpoint regarding his mission is well expressed in the following extract from a letter addressed to a German Staff Officer of the IVth Army on May 4, 1918:—

"It is we, as Prussian officers, who are charged with the duty of pushing forward with the greatest zeal and unstinting complaints as far as possible, but obliged to insisting with an iron-like resolution on our wishes."

and his opinion of the Turkish officer with whom he had to deal:

"The view of the equality of right of the Turks with Europeans, originating in the abolition of the Capitulations, is, of course, just like comparing Lassers to German soldiers, and in many ways, even for enlightened some Turkish officers it assumes quite grotesque forms."

"On the part of the Turkish officer, apart from his feeling of resentment at being driven to further other aims than those which would be of advantage to his own country, there was also a feeling of the deep-rooted national feeling against the stranger. The extent of this feeling may be judged from the following extract from a personal letter from Djemal Pasha, O.C.O. VIIth Army, to Von Falkenhayn:

"My experience from Arabia, in order to take over the new command to which I was appointed by Your Excellency, as well as the spiritual and moral consequences of the new post, demand a succession of special instructions, neglect of which will entail serious consequences."

"Bearing this in mind, and I regard it as very important, it is clear that the employment of officers and men in German uniform in the neighbourhood of the Hejaz Railway, regarded by Moslems as sacred, will favour and strengthen British influence and will tend to make the Arab reasonable convictions and disaffection of the inhabitants.

"For this reason, I shall not be able therefore to take with me to Amman the officers and men in German uniform who have hitherto been on my staff, and I shall also send the German battalion now in the neighbourhood of Kerak to the XXth (Turkish) Army Corps. (The Turkish XXth Corps was at that time west of Jordan).

"I request Your Excellency either to replace the German flying units and motor lorry columns now in the above-named zone with Turkish officers and men, or else equip them throughout with Turkish uniforms."

The final operations are described thus (in part):

"On September 27, the last Turkish formations evacuated Jiljulia, and the Jordan force moved north by the way of Messrib and Talaa. This force was followed with a frenzy of frightfulness that it thought in its madness that an example of terrorism might overawe the Hejaz Arabs, who were building in open rebellion all round it. Consequently it was decided to make an example of the unhappy villages of Talaa and Jiljulia, where women and children were butchered with every revolting circumstance of atrocity, but the last hour of Turkish rule, east of Jordan, had already struck. The Arabs, so far from being overawed, were incited to a fiercer fury by the mission to their former tyrants, were justly incensed by this brought Turkish outrage. The force which was responsible for it was visited by immediate and well-earned retribution, and the Arabs, and shortly afterwards at a point a little to the west of the railway at Shekh Saad, a fighting man of high repute and a notable of the Beni Sakhr, with the Arab Army. On finding what atrocities had been committed in a village, he charged single-handed upon a Turkish column and furiously wreaked blood for blood until he was riddled with bullets. At dawn on September 27th, the Arab Camel Corps rode into Deraa, so long a Turkish stronghold, and shortly afterwards at a point a little to the west of the railway at Shekh Saad, a fighting man of high repute and a notable of the Beni Sakhr, with the Arab Army. On finding what atrocities had been committed in a village