CAIRO CONCERT PARTIES.

ENTERTAINING THE ENTERTAINERS.

A most enjoyable evening's entertainment was given at Gezira Sporting Club on Saturday evening last, when the Soldiers' Entertainment Committee invited every member of the concert parties, who have been for some time past at work entertaining wounded and sick soldiers in Cairo, to a dinner and concert afterwards—an invitation which was responded to very heartily by all. Upwards of eighty guests were accommodated at the picturesque tables which were well arranged out of doors, and were illuminated by candle-light. The parties present were "The Aircrews," the "Anzac Hostel Party," "The Cards," "The Essayists," "The Fragments," "The Joints," "The Knuts," and the "Pollies." The members of the Committee received and welcomed the artists composing the various troupes on their arrival, among those representing the committee being Mrs. Russell, vice-chairman who spared no pains to make everyone happy, Mr. R.E. Monteith-Smith, chairman, who also was to be seen chatting to one and all, Major Hill, the Military Representative, Lieut. Davies, Mr. Harbridge, and Mr. Barton, all of whom worked indefatigably for the success of the evening.

At the conclusion of the excellent menu, which was served irreproachably, Mr. R.E. Monteith-Smith made a short informal speech and in the name of the Committee cordially thanked the numerous concert parties which have in many cases been entertaining for three years or more, for their magnificent services. He expressed the difficulty felt by the committee as to what form this recognition should take, and informed his hearers that the dinner ultimately decided upon was in no sense a reward, but a very small mark or symbol of their appreciation of the work done. Often, continued Mr. Monteith-Smith, these services might have appeared to have received scant acknowledgment but he was sure that the class of men for whose sole benefit these entertainments had been organised, namely the wounded and convalescent soldiers, were, to a man, grateful for what the concert parties had done. A very enjoyable concert followed, in which performers from many parts were heard, the programme being arranged by Mr. C.W.T. Harbridge, the organising Secretary. Private Stevens recited the well known "Cirilian" which has proved such a telling composition in London, accompanied by Elgar's music which was well played by Corporal Reeve who also gave later two acceptable solos. Miss May Brookes, the well known soprano contributed three charming songs, namely, one of Robert Conningsby Clarke's, Desert Songs, "Love's Garden of Roses" and "Thank God for the Roses—accompanied by Mrs. Frederick Chatterton—all of which were received with great pleasure.

Mr. Shaw's violin playing was distinctly good, and was well accompanied by Mr. Burgess who also officiated in a like capacity for Mr. W. T. Davies whose baritone voice sounded to great advantage in "Jack Briton." Private Scott, who had journeyed from Moascar especially to give the audience a treat, did remarkably well in his Australian Recitations which thoroughly delighted the audience.

The evening was altogether a great success, every arrangement having been made in the best possible taste, and carried out without a hitch from beginning to end.

SOLDIERS AND THE LAND.

The British South Africa Company announces that of the 250,000 acres proposed to be allotted free to soldier settlers in Southern Rhodesia, about 80,000 acres have already been definitely or provisionally selected. Similar steps are being taken in regard to the land they propose to allot for a like purpose in Northern Rhodesia.

Simultaneously comes the announcement that country committees are being formed in England under the Lords-Lieutenant "to develop a scheme for the settlement of soldiers and sailors on the land in England at the end of the war," in the belief that "the land problem may be handled better on voluntary unofficial lines by local men for local men than on any system of Government organisation."

Comparison of land proposals for England with those of the great Dominions must always make the former seem small, but any attempt to satisfy the widespread desire of soldiers to go upon the land by means of purely local effort is to mishandle a grave problem. The Government must certainly take the matter in hand if a substantial increase of the home-grown food supply is to be obtained.

Estimates of the Washington railroad administration officials indicate that an increase of at least 25 per cent in freight and passenger rates will be necessary this year in order to meet the higher cost of fuel, wages, equipment, and other working expenses, which are now estimated at from five hundred to seven hundred million dollars in excess of last year.

The "Berlingske Tidende" (Copenhagen) protests against the purchase by Britain, France, and America of the whole of the Icelandic wool clip, as this means that Danish and Swedish firms will get none, however badly they also need it. "We also need some of this wool," says the journal, "but the stronger and most favourably circumstanced of the two groups won the day."

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ANCIENT EGYPT.

NOTES ON EGYPTIAN PAPYRI

(By Joseph Offord).

The publication of the third volume of the Fayûmic Papyri promised for this autumn has had to be postponed because of the scarcity of printers, but the next volume of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri, edited by Dr. Bernard Grenfell, will be issued to subscribers of the Egypt Exploration Fund before the annual meeting of that Society in November.

The offices of the E.E. Fund have been removed from 37 Great Russell St. to a temporary address in Bloomsbury; and those of the "Society of Biblical Archaeology" will, it is believed, be in future at the Royal Asiatic Society.

Several of the manuscripts in the Tebtunis series concern Jewish residents in Egypt under the Lagides and will fill up gaps in our knowledge as to the settling places of these Hebrew colonists in Middle Egypt.

Among the Flinders Petrie papyri, edited some time ago by Dr. Mahaffy, was one from the site of the village of Penyris, in the Arsioite Nome, which mentions that the personage referred to in it was a Jew. It concerned the due payment of the Government duty for keeping a slave. Another Petrie papyrus from the same district speaks of the contracting parties being Jews. Papyrus No.100 of the Oxyrhynchus find calls a street of that town "the Jews' Lane."

In Professor Wilcken's great collection of Ostraca, or inscribed potsherds, which came from Thebas, or rather Luxor, dealers, there are many on which the names signed for receipts are undoubtedly Hebrew, such as Josepos, Abdon, and Sollumios.

In the series of ppyri, procured from various parts of the country, published by Dr. Grenfell in his volume entitled "An Erotic Fragment," one text relates to a person named Dayosulos, who should be a Jew. The document is a complaint, that he failed to adhere to, or to carry out, his written promise.

Up the Nile at Syene, in Tragan's reign the collector of harbour dues for that riverine town, Assouan, was named Antonius Malkaios, probably of Hebrew descent. Coming down to the Delta, an inscription from Athribis of the Ptolemaic period says a certain "Ptolemaeus," son of Epidios chief of the city police, built a "Synagogue there for the most High God." This is the title chiefly used in Greek epigraphy for the Jehovah of Mount Zion. Probably either one or both of Ptolemaeus' parents were of Hebrew race although they had adopted Hellenic names.

HITTITE TABLETS FROM CAPPADOCIA.

Professor Sayce whilst staying recently in Egypt has completed the deciphering of some Cappadocian or Hittite tablets written in Babylonian cuneiform signs of which he took transcripts in the Philadelphia museum some two years ago when on his way to Tokyo. He has for many years been the specialist who successfully translated these writings embodying practically a new language—that of the Mitanian branch of Hittite.

Several of the Tel el-Amarna tablets were of this type, and a number were obtained by Professor Golenischeff of Russia from near Kerkuk. Some of these are, I believe, among the Tel-el-Amarna documents in the Cairo Museum.

As the Mitanni princes were for a time allies of the Pharaohs, this ancient literature is of interest for Egyptian history.

THE EDICT OF DECIUS.

Not long ago we gave an attempt at restoring the text of the edict of the Emperor Decius commanding all citizens within the boundaries of the Roman Empire to offer sacrifices to the gods. It was then incidentally shown that the administrative arrangements for insuring obedience were of a democratic character. A committee of citizens being appointed as supervisors, doubtless under Government surveillance.

In three of the last of the copies of Coptic texts published by the British Museum is a story entitled "The Martyrdom of St. Mercurius the General." The introduction is one in which professes to give an account of the issuing of Decius' edict and in the first manuscript associates Valerianus with the issue. The writer gives a Coptic rendering of a preliminary notice explaining the imperial ideas which decided the Caesars to promulgate the "general ordinance" as the writer terms the decree. In this are stated the penalties of death by sword, water or wild beasts, adding that the Christians should be expressly liable to death sentences of this kind, a sentence probably not in the protocol but interpolated by the Egyptian scribe. Mercurius' martyrdom took place at Caesarea, but his body for some reasons appears to have been buried near Edfou at which place a shrine was erected to protect it. It is possible that the version given of the preliminary imperial notice issued throughout the Empire when forwarding Decius' notice is really a copy of an official document. There is a second and a third mutilated manuscript of the Mercurius story. The second of these associates also Maximinian with the edict. This is probably only done to augment the importance of Mercurius' martyrdom, which contains the usual style of miraculous impossibilities.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

THE HAPPY MEAN REQUIRED.

The "Ahram."— One of our provincial correspondents remarks that the leading Government officials in his province continue to accept private invitations from officials and notables to entertainments, contravening the official order issued by the Ministry of the Interior objecting to officials accepting private invitations of this sort. He severely criticises officials for acting in this respect. For our part we are not of the same opinion, for though we appreciate the Ministry of the Interior's instructions tending to place its officials above suspicion, we see that those officials are only human beings living among their relatives and countrymen, and it is unfair to cut them off from society, and the harm which results from separating officials from the governed classes may be more detrimental than the evil which, in certain cases, comes from associating with people and taking part in social life. We by no means think that the Ministry would go so far as to make a separation between both parties when it issued the circular referred to above, but it meant, we believe, to prevent excesses..... We have on previous occasions called the Government's attention to the wrong deeds of these officials who have taught omdehs and sheikhs to use whisky and soda, and V.O. Martel cognac and other things which have spread evil in rural districts.... We have on former occasions said to provincial officials, "Redeem your pride, and know that you are far from being the masters of this nation, the members of which are great like servants"; but we have never meant that such officials ought to be separated from the rural people. There is no reason why officials should not attend public meetings and ceremonies and be courteous to people. This sort of courtesy may be necessary on many occasions...

THE NILE FLOOD.

The "Bassir."— It is worth while on the part of those cultivators referred to in the recent circular issued by the Ministry of Public Works, with regard to the Nile flood this year, to give special attention to the advice given to them by the Ministry. They ought to take precautionary steps, relying upon their own experience and the views of both the Ministries of Public Works and Agriculture, so that they may not lose any advantage in connection with the forthcoming crop, which requires care and forethought to produce, negligence and lack of self reliance being detrimental in this respect. We address this advice to all cultivators in this country, for it has become quite advantageous to give attention to cultivation...

SUPPLIES CONTROL BOARD AND THE PROVINCES.

"Wady el Nil."— (From an article on the tariff in the provinces)— The Supplies Control Board is doing a good work in towns where it refers those offenders who contravene the tariff to the military courts for trial every week, and this is taking place in Alexandria and Cairo. But nothing of this sort exists in the provinces, as though the tariff were not made for the mondirieh. The measures carefully taken in these days both here and in Cairo, are meant to remedy the oil and sugar crisis. The petroleum crisis and the wheat and flour difficulties have also been carefully dealt with in both cities, but the provinces are still suffering from the same difficulties. People there cannot get petroleum, and cannot get oil and sugar unless they pay excessive prices for these commodities, and the varieties they purchase at excessive rates are not at all good. Ask the fellahen how much they have to pay for a kella of wheat or dura and they will tell you how the tariff is being contravened there. It cannot be argued that the provinces have not experienced great economic difficulties, which is proved that merchants and agents of companies in the districts are like angels having no greed and no tendency to treat their clients unfairly; and this is far from being the case, for the fellahen can be seen resorting to the authorities and uttering bitter complaints in the hope that they will be saved from such a situation... To say the truth no care is being given to the provinces in this respect, and we are loth to infer that this shows that the activity displayed by the authorities in both Alexandria and Cairo would hardly have been manifested had the populations of these two cities not known how to raise a hue and cry whenever they feel the pains of excesses...

OFFICIALS' SLACKNESS.

"Misr."— (From an article on the organisation of village Councils.)— The scheme, specially meant by the Government to introduce reform into villages so that they may develop gradually and become healthy and prosperous little towns, is being carried out slowly in the provinces. Only a few have been set up hitherto, and we wish we could know the cause of this slowness. Does it come from the side of villagers or from the attitude of the Government? As a fact, villagers do not care about public matters as they care about their particular interests, and from this point of view they appear to be isolated. Blame therefore must be saddled upon the Government officials in the provinces who fail to promote the idea of setting up more village councils in the districts. It is worth noting that rural officials scarcely start any useful work for public purposes without receiving encouragement or instructions from the moudir or the mamour.....

ALEXANDRIA'S INDECENT BOULEVARD

The "Ahaly."— The people of Alexandria and its summer visitors witnessed a strange scene yesterday afternoon when a native procession passed through Boulevard Ramleh and some of the other main streets of the town with a native band at its head, apparently celebrating some particular event. The scene was so indecent that it made the face of every modest Egyptian blush. Those who took part in the procession were mostly native women with uncovered faces, wearing immodest clothes, and manifesting immodest gestures. In reply to a question as to what these women were celebrating, a policeman in the street said that they were celebrating the birth of a child of a prostitute whose mother-in-law was an "Alika." Asked why he would not stop the procession and take the company to the caracol on the charge of violating the Government orders regarding superstition, the policeman shrugged his shoulder and remained silent....

THE GAMBLING MICROBE.

The "Omma."— The Government has displayed a laudable energy in taking strict measures against gambling clubs, but gambling has now spread among the private residences in the town, which the police authorities have no powers, it appears, to raid. The microbe of gambling is infecting families and the amateurs who conduct the movement think that they are far from the reach of watchful eyes.

EGYPT'S WONDERFUL RESOURCES.

The "Express."— Egypt is a land of fertility and rich resources, and this quality of the Nile Valley has figured eminently during these years of war as a result of the interruption of communications between this country and foreign lands which used to send us various products. We have realised in these trying circumstances the truth of the statement that Egypt is the paradise of Africa and the glorious Nile is the source of the life and prosperity of Egypt. During the last four years we have had to reply upon the resources of our country together with our numerous guests, and are supplying surpluses to our neighbors who have experienced hardships in this war... Steamers used to bring to us great quantities of various food stuffs such as wheat, dura, beans, live stock, oil, rice, cotton, honey, cheese, fruits and vegetables and other things, and though these stuffs have ceased to be imported to our country we have found all we want in this land. We never believed that Egypt would be able to meet the necessary supplies for its inhabitants who received so many things and such great quantities of stuffs from abroad. It is true that prices have grown dearer, but the rise in many cases comes from commercial arrangements made by greedy merchants, and not from any want of production... Take the rice question for instance and you will see that Egypt, which imported enormous quantities of this commodity before the war in the Far East, has produced more than enough of it for the population. This was because opened our eyes to the value of our land's resources, and we should thus be more attached to Egypt and more loving..... And thou Great Nile, glorious and of rivers Salaam be on thee...

WHAT IS AN EXPERT.

The "Watan."— Some of the qualified "experts" before the Alexandria native Tribunals have written to us complaining of the bitter irregular methods followed by the Mehkemela Sharieh in obtaining expert reports on matters connected with Sheri cases. They say that the Mehkemeh often selects unqualified "experts," and gives a certain mann to report on architectural matters while qualified architects wait for work, and this is due to the mann's being a personal friend of some of the officials. It is obvious that this sort of work is detrimental to the interests of both those who resort to the Court for justice and to experts.

THE ACTING JUDICIAL ADVISER'S TRIP

The "Ahaly."— (From its Mansoura correspondent).— Mr. Amos, Acting Judicial Adviser arrived at Mansoura yesterday morning. He was received at the station by the President and judges of the Native Court, the members of the Parquet, and members of the bar, with Hafez Pasha Hassan, the Moudir, at the head of the welcomers. There was also a detachment of policemen here under the command of Riad Bey Shahid, mamour of the markaz. When he arrived, the Acting Judicial Adviser shook hands with all those who were present and then drove in a motor car with the Moudir to the moudiria headquarters. He inspected the Court of First Instance at Mansoura, and subsequently went to visit the Talkha Court, returning afterwards to the capital of the province where he inspected the Summary Court... Mr. Amos will spend three days in the Dakahlieh.

AN UNRULY CEREAL MERCHANT.

"Wady el Nil."— The local Cereal Merchants' Association at Alexandria, has formed a special committee of its members with the object of preventing merchants from withholding certain varieties of cereals for the purpose of drawing special profits from the market. It was observed of late that some of the merchants were endeavouring to influence the dura and beans market owing to the scarcity of imported cereal stuffs, and we are informed that one of them has hoarded 23 ardebs of beans; but the association, hearing of the action of this merchant, advised him to divide the quantity among retailers under its supervision. The merchant is said to have refused to do so on the ground that the Cereal Merchants' Association is not yet formally organised, and it consequently has no right to control the market. At last the association threatened to bring the matter before the Supplies Control Board.

KANTARA NOTES.

(By Scorer.)

Kantara, Aug. 21.

In the Kantara Cricket League, the Kansigs C.C. met the R.B. on the Kantara Recreation ground on Tuesday, the game resulting in a win for the Signallers by 16 runs. For the winners Captain Pawson made 34 carrying his bat while in the bowling Lieut. Woollacot took 7 wickets for 24 runs and Taylor 3 for 21. Major Raymond saving his side by taking 6 wickets for 28.

The scores were Kansigs 68; R.B. 52.

Fololwing is the league tabe up to and including August 20 :—

B. H. P.	9	9	—	18
Y. B. D.	8	6	2 —	12
A. O. C.	8	5	2	11
R.O.D., R.E.	7	5	2 —	10
M.T., A.S.C.	7	3	2	8
A. & N.Z. P.O.	7	4	3 —	8
A.D.V., R.E.	8	4	4 —	8
C. B. D.	7	3	3	1 7
No. 2, Base	7	3	4 —	6
R. B.	8	3	5 —	6
R. T. S.	8	2	6 —	4
Kansigs	9	2	7 —	4
M. S. D.	8	1	6	1 3
4th Hospital	5	—	4	1 1

Kantara, Aug. 23.

An interesting cricket match took place on Wednesday last between the Navy and Army Canteen Board (Kantara) and the "Blue Dragoons" Concert Party on the former's ground and resulted in a win for the N.A.C.B. by 36 runs, the scores being N.A.C.B. 82, Blue Dragoons, 46.

In the evening another members of the "Blue Dragoons" party entertained the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the N.A.C.B. in their camp.

League fixtures for this week:—

Tuesday, August 27, R.O.D., R.E. v. A.O.C.

Thursday, August 29, 44th Hospital v. M.T., A.S.C.

Saturday, August 31, M.S.D. v. B.H.T.O.

On Tuesday the 27th instant the G.B.D. will hold its 6th Boxing tournament. Several good contests have been arranged, and a good evening's sport should be witnessed. Satisfaction will be felt at learning that the organiser and promoter of these nights of boxing, who has lately been in hospital, is now back again and will be seen in the ring in his old capacity of M.C. on Tuesday.

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GERMAN PESSIMISM

LASSITUDE OF THE KAISER'S TROOPS.

The special correspondent of the "Petit Parisien" on the French front, telegraphs the following statement of a German officer, who was captured in the recent operations, and who, says the correspondent appeared to be speaking in all sincerity:

The present operations will end in disaster if we do not succeed in establishing fresh solid positons. The attack of the 15th was carried out with a large number of divisions. As on every previous occasion we were assured that the offensive would be the last, and would bring peace. Officers, senior and junior, as well as the troops, have lost all hope in the success or outcome of this action.

On account of the lassitude which prevails, the troops almost expected the setback, and foresaw the French counter-attack. The condition of supplies is truly pitiable, and this has caused both illness and a slackness in recruiting. Reserve officers are in conflict with officers in the field, and especially with the Higher Staff officers. This situation is studiously hidden from the rank and file by the generals and regimental commanders.

MARRIAGE AND EMIGRATION.

Marriage as between Colonial soldiers and Englishwomen promises to become a most prolific factor of Empire emigration. People emigrate to join their friends, as a rule, in the new country. The Colonial soldiers, by taking back English wives, are making new personal and family links between the Dominions and the Mother-country. Younger relatives of said wives, as they grow up, will go out to the country to which these married women have been taken as soldiers' wives. This will keep emigration within the Empire.

The number of marriages by Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand soldiers is astounding. English girls are making money by marrying a Colonial soldier, drawing the handsome separation allowance, and earning a salary in office or shop or factory at the same time.

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