THE NATIVE PRESS.

EGYPT'S DISHONEST CORN MERCHANTS.

Wady el-Nil" (from its Cairo correspondent). — The recent food crisis will leave a bad impression upon the minds of the present generation especially the poorer classes of people in Egypt, owing to the wrong attitude of some of the cereal merchants in the country. The Cereal Merchants Association has been called "a gang" by some people, and these are not much wrong... The lengthy speech delivered recently by Mr. Ross Taylor, of which only small extracts have been published by the press, reflects a great discredit on the cereal merchants concerned, and gives people to understand that cereal merchants were exploiting an unguarded position. We learn on good authority that Mr. Ross Taylor began his speech with a severe reproach addressed to the Association of Cereal Merchants to the following effect: "I was obliged as a result of the attitude you had adopted to extend military authority to Mudiris in order that they might deal with dishonest merchants. Some of the merchants determined from the very day when they joined the Association to use the membership as a weapon for the purpose of getting more illegal profits and this had intensified the situation in big towns. In spite of the fact that the merchants produces certain effects on the economic situation in both peace and war time, the Egyptian merchant has not been like his colleague in Europe. The latter has supported his government in provisioning the country and the former has acted on the contrary. I have private reports which prove that you and not cultivators are responsible for dishonest business in the foodstuff market, and that every one wanted to sell his grain at higher rates than those fixed by the tariff in the Mudiriech or the district where he received it so that he might not transport the same to such places as those where stricter control was practised." At the conclusion of his speech the President of the Cereal Merchant Association (Mr. Ross Taylor) severed his connection with the Association. Those who were present were touched by the speech not because it contained reproach but because it disclosed true facts. We wish Mr. Ross Taylor could have mentioned the unfortunate incident of Rod el-Farag in which a person lost their lives... Apropos of the secret reports referred to above, we understand that some of the cereal merchants at Alexandria had purchased durra from some provincial noblebs at the tariff rate and sold the same at the rate of P.T. 280 per ardeb, in the Mudiriech, with an excess of P.T. 200.

THE MEANING OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CEREAL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The "Ahaly." — We were the first journal to criticise the Chief Association of Cereal Merchants in Cairo for having attached itself to the S.C.B. under the presidency of the same chairman, Mr. Ross Taylor, in spite of the contradictory conditions of both organisations, and now we hear this truth from Mr. Taylor himself who declared, in a speech delivered at a recent meeting of the Association that he only accepted the presidency of that organisation because of a war emergency. But the members did not understand, it appears, the meaning of the speaker, and that Mr. Ross Taylor as the Supplies Control Board cannot remain president of the Cereal Merchants Association. They insisted on his retaining his present post, but he did not grant their request, and the question had to be left to be submitted to the General Assembly of the Association. We regret to see that people have begun to talk about the dissolution of the Cereal Association as though it were only set up to satisfy the desire of the person who wished to be its organised. We do not deny that Mr. Ross Taylor has promoted the scheme, but the cereal merchants must feel the uselessness of mutual support, and we believe that the merchants are with us in considering that the dissolution of the Association would indicate that they are no qualified men to take up the work, and show that the merchants, who underrated the importance of the scheme when Mr. Ross Taylor conducted the moment, have ceased to understand that now.

INFLUENZA IN THE PROVINCES.

The "Watan" (from an account of the spread of the Spanish Influenza in the districts). — I arrived in the border of Egypt today and was surprised at hearing that twelve victims were buried today in this town. I have wandered in the quarters of the border and found that the southern part of it only shows signs of Municipal care, whereas the northern part of the town is very dirty....

A CAMEL LOTTERY.

The "Ahram." — The Military authorities will offer shortly a large division of camels for sale in the province of the sale of L.E. 20 per head. About 500 camels will be sent to Gharbiah, and 500 to Menoufiah for that purpose. The sale will be effected in such a way as to make purchasers take the camels they want without selection. Numbers will be supplied for this purpose.

SOME TANZIM DISMISSALS AND THE CONSEQUENCES.

Some month ago the Cairo Tanzim Department dismissed the Mouawins of the Eshelchel Tanzim without giving them the gratuity they deserve. Five of these Mouawins, as reported in our columns at the time, took legal proceedings against the Ministry of Public Works and claimed the gratuity they deserve for their period of service in the Department. The judgment of the Court of Appeal was in their favour and the Ministry has had to pay the men what they have claimed, together with the expenses of the case and the lawyers' fees.

The Advisory Municipal and Local Council met on Monday last at the Ministry of the Interior under the presidency of the Under Secretary of State to that Ministry and approved of giving officials of the Municipal and Local Councils, the additional war time allowance in accordance with decisions of the Council of Ministers issued in September 11 last.

A telegram from Kieff states that the Ministerial Council has confirmed the law respecting the temporary duty-free imports of foods and other printed matter into the Ukraine.

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AFTER THE BALL.

NEW COMERS TO THE LEAGUE.

There was a reshuffling of the leaders in both divisions of the Alexandria United Services League during the week end. The 3rd echelon lost the position they had held since the commencement of the season at the top of the Eastern Division table and as a result of their defeat by the A.W. & S.P. dropped to third place. I will deal with this match later on in the column. Last week the A.W. & S.P. were a point behind with two games in hand, now they lead the 19th General, who have played a match more than the Airmen by two points and the Echelon by three. Two of the four points they gained during the week were conceded them by Melita, who were unable to raise a team to play their match. The Wing also benefited by a couple of points from the same cause. Its a pity that Melita have been unable through sickness to play these matches, but undoubtedly The A.W. & S.P. would have had the points anyhow. No one would dispute that deduction who had seen the two teams play this week end. A week or two since I advertised teams to keep an eye on the 19th General Hospital. The Hospital Men are now second of the last having six wins out of eight games to their credit. Enough said.

Another team I advised people in the Western Division during the week end; the M.S.D. losing their unbeaten record. The Sappers were their A.S.C. brothers, the Emtees, who lost their position as leaders the week before. There was over the Naidlers, though it did not land them on top again took them to second place. The Emtees again bagged full points; their victims being Amria, and retained their place at the head of the table with maximum points for seven games.

The Royal Naval Depot were without a game and were ousted from second place by the Emtees, but using on superior goal average, as both teams have won a dozen points for their seven games. The M.S.D. are fourth, but only a point behind; so the running is very close. While on the Western Division let me refer to the fact that they have a new club to welcome in their midst. The 6th Divisional Ammunition Column have been allowed by the Executive to take over the fixtures of the "Bird." From what I hear the D.A.C. have some very useful players and are likely to give some of the clubs a twisting. The Bird had only played one game, which went against them, so that the D.A.C. starts off with a virtual handicap of two points. I am sure the newcomers will find the clubs they meet decent sports, and vice versa.

ONLY ONE OPINION.

Anyone who saw the match between the Echelon and the A.W. & S.P. could only have one opinion—that the better team won. On all appearances the airmen proved themselves the superior combination and everyone seemed to be agreed that their's was the best football that had been seen on the Echelon ground this season. They have some excellent players among them; one known in the football world in Blighty. For the Echelon it must be said that they were without Perfect and Ashby which made some difference to their play. So far as Perfect was concerned there was no difficulty in finding a substitute as Potter their outside right, was a capital back last season and he showed on Saturday that he can still play in that position. Really he was the outstanding man in the Echelon team and some of his advances were very cleanly carried out and he was up against good stuff. It is improbable that the Echelon had their full team out they would have won. The visitors practically took charge of the game after the first half hour. Their attack was backed up by a very excellent defence. McLean bamboozling off one or two very fine saves which would have beaten most goalkeepers.

The A.W. & S.P. have found a capital centre forward in Grey. On Saturday he proved himself capable of holding the line together and that he was an opportunist. The wrecker with the whole wing and more particularly with Wright and McLeod on the left wing. Wright was the best line running on the wing, which the other forwards did very well with. Much of the success of their forward was due to the admirable work of Crabtree, the centre half looked after them. He has quite the genuine touch and the way he shovelled the ball to his front men was a great contrast to the manner some halves attempt to feed their forwards. On this present form the A.W. & S.P. should prove strong enough to win the League, but they have yet to run the gauntlet. Their record of seven wins in seven games, however, has not been attained by luck, but by sterling merit. They have certainly administered a rude shock to the erstwhile leaders, who rather gave one the impression of losing heart after being a goal behind. If that impression was correct all I can say is that they do not deserve to win, but from what I have seen of the team let me say I do not believe that they were chicken-hearted.

EMTEES IMPROVEMENT.

That was a nice clean game played on the M.S.D. ground between that team and the Emtees. It was in charge of Pte. Manning and I should like to compliment that referee on his handling of the game. One thing was clear, he does not believe in rough play and some of his rulings for heavy charging rather puzzled the crowd. All the same no impartial onlooker could quarrel with his decisions. There was little to choose between the two teams. Of the run of the game I think the Emtees deserved their win. They were a vastly better team than when I saw them a few weeks ago on their own ground with the Royal Naval Depot in opposition. Patterson and his men were all persistent triers. Nutting and Shaw took my eye as the best men in the quintette. It is true that I had not much chance to judge Turner's capabilities in the second half, the outside man was badly starved. I like the visitors' defence too better than the M.S.D. Hargreaves and Stears were good partners and their kicking was very safe. They did not allow themselves to be bustled by the attacking forwards. Sutherland was a hard working half and speaking generally the team shaped very well. By the way the inside forwards should do well to get in each others way as they did some times on Saturday.

Just a few words about the M.S.D. or Naidlers, who I had not seen before. I was rather taken with their centre forward, Instead right and left winger to wit; McEwan, Tait and Taylor. They showed pretty idea of combination and also how to shoot at sight. They are on the light side, in fact the Emtees had a heavy front line than the homesters. McEwan has an excellent goal scoring record for the season and maybe he did not add to it on Saturday he made some splendid attempts. Another Naidler who took my eye was Woolley, their centre half. He was good in the tackle and some of his touches were very deft. He placed the ball for his forwards very nicely. He was well supported by his brother, Tait. The back department rather allowed itself to be bustled off form, I thought. Foyles was the better of the two. He played a good game and his head several times relieved the situation. Though he is on the small side he managed to put his head to the ball very successfully. Lister was erratic in his kicking especially towards the end of the game. He wasted time which might have served his side in good stead by kicking out as the end of the game approached with the Emtees leading by the odd goal in three.

EXECUTIVE NOTES.

For the third week in succession I have to report on the judgment of the Executive Committee in cases brought to their notice by referees. This time a Cleopatra player—Baker—has been severely reprimanded and suspended for three weeks for striking his opponent. The Committee are making a determined stand against rough play and hardened offences and the penalties they mete out in the future are likely to be heavier than they have been in the past. They have made up their minds to have the League run on good sporting lines. Readers will without doubt endorse this and will do their best to assist the Committee to attain the goal for which they are aiming.

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The Committee are in negotiation with the Cairo Military League with a view to fixing a game between the two Leagues on December 28. It should be a good game if arrangements all the necessary arrangements can be made.

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While on the Committee's doings I would draw all clubs attention to the meeting of the General Purposes Committee to be held tomorrow (Friday) evening, No. 1 Sporting, Hotel Metropole, at 7 o'clock, to consider an important point affecting the rules. Each Club should be represented by two members.

YOUR ASSISTANCE WANTED.

I have already referred to the fact that the Bird's engagements in the Western Division have been taken over by the 60th Divisional Ammunition Column, and that they have come into the district. This opens a wider question. Among the Divisions who have just arrived in the district are numerous football clubs who are anxious for games. The great trouble is the shortage of available grounds and it is up to the clubs who were here first to give our chums from the front line every facility to use their grounds when they are not doing so themselves. It is the old game; we must all "muck" in together. The 60th D.A.C. will have to rely on the use of the grounds of other clubs to fulfil their home matches and from what I know of the Western Division clubs they will be only too pleased to lend a hand in this way. Might I suggest to the new comers that the quickest way to get in touch with the local clubs, with a view to arranging matches, is to obtain one of the League Handbooks, which contains a complete list of the secretaries' names, addresses, and grounds of the competing clubs. A glance at the League tables published in the "Gazette" on Monday will give some idea of the strength of the clubs in question. I am sure Sgt. Garwood, the Secretary of the League, will be pleased to oblige. The 60th D.A.C. address is:—No.4 Records, 3rd Echelon, which is only a few minutes walk from the Ramleh Station.

We should soon be hearing something of the Alexandria United Services Challenge Cup which is open to all service clubs. This would give our chums outside the League a chance to have a friendly one against the Leagues, probably more; that rests with themselves. They might also pick up a souvenir of their last stay in Alexandria, if some of their teams are quite hot. It will certainly add to the interest in the Cup competition if the team representatives from these divisions in the running.

"SPECTATOR" AND "PREACHER TOO."

A friend twitted me the other day as to whether I had not made a mistake in calling myself "Spectator." "You must think a bloomin' parson. Always preaching and pointing morals," he told me. Perhaps I am "Spectator" too much, but I am not going to apologise for that. Without delutions myself into thinking I have a mission to fulfil in the Alexandria Football world or anything of that sort I am not going to waste my time on the Editor of the "Gazette" has given me in allowing me space to be utilised for the benefit of the military football in Alexandria. Personally my opinion is that there is nothing like publicity both for boosting or damning things. The world of football in Alexandria need checking in all football leagues. There are always a certain number of players who think they are football in the best because it is the easiest and perhaps the only sort they can make good at. Well, I, as not in the interests of those men who can play the scientific style to let other run riot in their pretty game, but because in the generality of things the man who cannot often boosts himself that he can. An old Japanese motto comes to my remembrance. It runs—"He that knows not and knows not that he knows not he is a fool, shun him. Pity him and teach him if you mind it not. Rather show him the error of his ways and he may turn out a jolly good chap, or for our purpose football player. This may seem like an apology for my adoption of the role of "Preacher" but it is not; because I am absolutely unrepentant and to show what a hardened sinner I am let me deliver you a few words, I am sure, will be appreciated by the man who is among my bêtes noires in a football crowd.

A PERFECT OAD.

I found him quite a little while ago at one of our local matches. He was a most magnificent specimen of the most objectionable type of club partisan. The game had not been in progress three minutes before he found his incumbent upon him to desire the referee to play the game. Our friend, we must call him Oad, as we are always polite, was so obstinately wrong that a well meaning man in the crowd endeavoured to "lighten his darkness" in the pastoral tender advice to my mind is not good. Rather show him the error of his ways and he may turn out a jolly good chap, or for our purpose football player. This may seem like an apology for my adoption of the role of "Preacher" but it is not; because I am absolutely unrepentant and to show what a hardened sinner I am let me deliver you a few words, I am sure, will be appreciated by the man who is among my bêtes noires in a football crowd.

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