EGYPT'S PAPER IMPORTS.

THE CUSTOMS' VALUATION.

A correspondent writes to ask whether the news contained in our issue of Thursday, July 11, as to the extraordinary over-estimates of the Custom Administration of the value of the latest paper imports is correct. It will be remembered that we then stated that paper for newspapers, which had recently arrived at Alexandria from London, had been estimated by the Egyptian Customs Administration as having increased in value by 62 1/2 per cent since the date of purchase two months ago.

We may state that this news is perfectly correct and that the estimate of 62 1/2 per cent was made on newsprint paper imported from England by the "Egyptian Gazette." The paper in question was purchased by us in England in May and arrived at Alexandria at the beginning of this month. On clearing it we had to pay 62 1/2 per cent over the price paid by us for it in England, since the Customs Administration declared that newsprint paper had risen in value by 62 1/2 per cent. since last May. We do not believe that this estimate is correct and have written to England to obtain a certificate from the paper manufacturers as to what really was the actual rise in the value of such paper since May.

One of the reasons given for the action of the Customs Administration in making such extraordinarily excessive estimates is that the over-valuation of the paper is based on the prices current in Alexandria, but these prices are artificially raised by the paper profiteers, who as regards the newsprint paper for the local journals are able to sell at high prices because these papers are not in a position to import their own paper from Europe. Having a very limited circulation, being printed on a half-sheet, and not in many cases being able to purchase a large stock, these journals live from hand to mouth and so are forced in making their little purchases of newsprint paper to give any price the profiteer may demand.

ALEXANDRIA SOUP KITCHEN.

EPICURIAN TASTES OF PATRONS.

The Municipal Soup Kitchen at Kom el Shukafa, continues to help the poorer class in the locality, and is attracting more clients than before. On Sunday last no fewer than 240 persons got their food from the kitchen; but during the Bairam days there were fewer patrons, first because natives of all classes made as usual special preparations for Bairam, and second, because the Kitchen did not cook special food on the occasion. On the first Bairam day, for instance, the Soup Kit. chen offered "futieh" (leans with rice) and as people wanted better food on that day, it did not attract more than 79 clients, of the poorest class. On Thursday only 91 persons betook themselves to the Kitchen for food because the meal was lentils, "Fittaini es salamat," slow but-sure, is the motto of the Municipal fathers.

SUDAN NOTES AND RECORDS.

We have received a copy of "Sudan Notes and Records" for July the contents of which are as usual of a highly interesting order. Among the articles are "Installation of the King of Shilluk" by P. Munro; "The Lotuko" by the Hon. F.R.R. Somerset; Natural History Notes; "The Khawalda Tribe," by H.C. Jackson; "The People of Abu Jarid," by S. Hillelson, as well as Notes, Reviews and Correspondence.

Next week the Cairo Assizes will try Abdel Megid Effendi Nassif, son of the well known poet of Cairo Hefny Bey Nassif, for attempting to procure the escape of a prisoner from Tura Prison.

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ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY.

WHY NOT CLOSE IT ALTOGETHER?

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — In trespassing on your valued columns, I can hardly be said to be ventilating a matter of public interest, in so far as the literary requirements of the large majority of Alexandrians are satisfied by their own private resources of books. At the same time a few people amongst us would admit of the advisability of a library accessible to the public, whilst the existence of such, as suggested in the above headline, calls for some extraordinary reason to support it.

Perhaps I should start explaining my case by mentioning the times at which it is considered fit to keep the Municipal Library open. They are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fridays and Sundays excepted; such hours I believe to be those kept by the Municipal departments generally. But one would suppose that exception might have been made in the case of a library which is necessarily intended for the leisure hours of its visitors. Consequently the utility of the actual time-schedule depends upon the existence of a class of reader whose ordinary hours of work are less than that of an employee in the Municipality, and it is on the impossibility of such an assumption that I base my main argument for closing the institution in question. Of course it might be urged that the library hours be re-arranged to suit the needs of prospective students; but I fear that, apart from causing an upheaval in the smooth working of a vast and regular organisation the suggested change would involve the dangerous precedent in municipal circles of resuming work after one o'clock. Therefore I dismiss it in favour of my original proposal, in support of which certain subsidiary considerations should also be noted.

In the first place the books could be sold, so that private purchasers would at least have the benefit of the library's contents. Secondly, the sum so realised might be spent in erecting suitable marble statues to prominent members of the Municipal Council. Thirdly, the salaries of the librarian and his assistants would be available for transfer to some underpaid Municipal official in a high position. Lastly, the library premises might be transformed into a self-supporting aquarium, or a fashionable gaming saloon conducted for charitable purposes.

No doubt other readers of your esteemed journal will find further and more cogent reasons for the step which I am advocating.

Yours, &c.,
Iconoclast.

Alexandria, July 17.

HANDICAPPING VAGARIES.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — May I be allowed to enquire on what principle the Alexandria handicapper works? For instance, as shown by the entries for the Sabbah Pasha Handicap, next Saturday, there I find Kaha 9.11 and Halabi 8.8, a difference of 22lbs. between the weights when they last met for the same distance once round on June 22, Kaha carried then 8.2 and Halabi 8.7. I admit Kaha won by 3 lengths and Halabi was a bad fourth. In the meantime these animals have run in various other races, Kaha registering a last place and Halabi again came in third.

Is the explanation to be found in that the handicapper considers Halabi is out of condition and has lost form, or is it a case of: Hardly a compliment to the owner who still enters him. Now suppose Halabi does "come into form" on a number of occasions, he would be so much ahead of the handicapper to penalize Halabi 22lbs. or give him the usual, say 5lbs., for a win? In the latter case Halabi has three consecutive wins before him, by the time he reaches his best form, that of April 6, when he was 4th to Romeo, Kreisa and Shoukry in the club stakes in a field of 15 runners, which it must be remembered that he carried 8.3 and that at least one runner was carrying over 10 stone. In all a mystery to me and I should therefore like to advance the following problem for students of form:

"How many times must a pony who ran 4th in a first class race be expected to win—or lose—before he "levels" up to Stop winner in a 3rd class Pony handicap; also to the above as rider (no pun intended) what chance has Kaha against him on form this week?"

Yours, etc.,
"Zeno Perplexed."

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — May I call your attention to what one may term "Handicapping par Extraordinaire." On July 14, Halabi 7. st. 6 lbs. beat Mideffer, 8 st. 0 lbs. by 10 lengths in a race for 1st and 2nd class ponies.

Next Saturday both these ponies are entered in 3rd class races and we find Halabi 8 st. 8 lbs., and Mideffer 9st 11 lbs. Can anyone explain this?

Yours, &c.,
Interested Observer.

Mex Camp, July 17.

JOCKEYS AND JOCKEYSHIP.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir, — I was very pleased to see Bystander's letter in your paper to-day. I can only say I agree with every word he says about the Race. I wish I could have been called before the Stewards and asked for my opinion in the matter. The Stewards failed to show my capabilities better than I do. I am glad there is no chance of Smith putting the whip into me again this season.

Yours, &c.,
The Pony Ian Boulad.

Alexandria, July 17.

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COTTON CONTROL COMMISSION.

SELLING ORGANISATION.

1.—The Cotton Control Commission will sell cotton for export to

a) Persons or firms in Alexandria authorised by the Commission to export cotton.

b) Spinners who may apply direct to the Commission.

The terms in either case will be the scheduled prices f.o.b. (Alexandria for cash on delivery).

2.—Intending purchasers must state the number of bales required, the type or types, and the country of destination. They must also state whether the order is for account of a spinner whose name must be disclosed on demand, either by the exporter or by the buyer direct (to the Commission by cable), or for account of a merchant in the country of destination. In cases of applications from countries where permits for import are needed, satisfactory evidence of the possession of such permits may be required.

3.—The Commission will publish weekly a list of the stoompressed stock it has available for sale: allotment of cotton will be made weekly to applicants for purchase only to the extent of these stocks. Applicants whose orders have not been fulfilled will be advised by the Commission to that effect and it will be necessary for them to repeat their application for a subsequent allotment.

4.—The purchaser to whom cotton has been allotted will be advised of the marks and numbers of the bales and will be given a small sample of the pressing. If in his opinion the sample does not represent the type of cotton for which he has applied, he may call for an arbitration by three experts to be appointed by the Commission, and shall pay a deposit of L.E.10 for each lot of fifty bales or less.

If the arbitration decides that the cotton is not equal to type, he will be given priority at the next allotment for a similar quantity of cotton of the same type and the fee will be reimbursed.

If the arbitration proves that the cotton is equal to type the deposit shall be forfeited and the purchaser shall be required to accept the lot.

Except in cases of obvious error the responsibility of the Commission for the quality of the cotton of which it has effected the sale shall cease.

5.—Applicants must take delivery of cotton allotted to them on being advised by the Commission that shipping space is available but the Commission will endeavour as far as possible to meet the wishes of buyers by delivering from the cotton allotted to them any lots for which they desire priority.

Exporters must pay for cotton on the basis of the Pressing Companies weights before they withdraw it from the Commission's stores and the Commission will accept responsibility for short weight only for the amount by which the deficiency shall exceed 1/2 per cent according to official landing weights at the port of destination. But as the Commission's sale price is is expressed to be F.O.B. it will refund to the exporter such reasonable expenses as he may incur for putting the cotton on board ship.

6.—The Customs Authorities in Egypt will require for all cotton shipped an export permit, which will be issued by the Commission at the time of delivery. The exporter shall also conform to any regulations issued or that may be issued concerning the export of cotton from Egypt or its import into the country of destination. It is a condition of any sale of cotton made by the Commission that if the cotton is refused shipment by the competent authority it will be returned to the Commission which will refund the amount paid for it, and the whole transaction as between the Commission and the purchaser may at the absolute discretion of the Commission, be cancelled.

No cotton sold by the Commission shall be exported that does not bear the Commission's marks.

7.—The Commission may, at its sole discretion as to quantity and quality, offer to exporters cotton for shipment on consignment to the United Kingdom. If the exporter accepts the offer of the Commission he will be subject to the same as those set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5.

8.—(a) Spinners who apply to the Commission for a direct sale of cotton shall when required produce to the Commission evidence of Egypt an amount sufficient to cover the value of the cotton, the cost of freight, and incidental expenses. If the sale is for cash a deposit with the Commission will accept a confirmed banker's credit at sight on London in its favour.

(b) If the spinner wishes the Commission to effect insurance against marine and war risks, a further sum sufficient to cover both premiums shall also be included. The Commission will place the risks to the best of its ability but without responsibility.

(c) A fee of P.T.10 per bale, plus out of pocket expenses, will be charged by the Commission in respect of orders passed to it direct.

(d) Any complaints regarding qualities or weights of lots shipped by the United Kingdom direct by the Commission shall be dealt with under the arbitration rules of the Manchester and Liverpool Cotton Association.

Any such complaints as regards lots shipped elsewhere than to the United Kingdom shall be addressed to the Commission.

(e) The Commission will accept responsibility for short weight only for the amount by which the deficiency exceeds 1/2 per cent.

(f) The Commission will see that spinners' applications are renewed at the weekly allotment referred to in Para. 3.

(g) Except as specified in the present paragraph orders given direct to the Commission will be subject to the same regulations as those set forth above concerning orders placed through export firms.

REGULATIONS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

1.—The Advisory Board will assemble on the invitation of the President of the Cotton Control Commission. The latter, or in his absence the Vice-President of the C.C.C. shall be, ex-officio, Chairman of the meetings.

2.—During the cotton season, viz: from September to February, at a meeting of the Advisory Board shall be held at least once a month.

3.—Except in cases of urgency, the President of the C.C.C. (or in his absence the Vice-President) will submit in advance any regulations or orders of importance which it is intended to publish.

4.—The members of the Advisory Board will receive notice of any meeting not less than three days before the date of the meeting. An agenda will be communicated to them, giving the questions for discussion, as also copies of any documents requiring consideration.

Questions not stated on the agenda may be discussed subject to the consent of the Chairman and of the majority of members of the Advisory Board present.

Minutes of the Board's meetings shall be kept.

5.—Should any six members of the Advisory Board, or more, request it in writing, the President of the C.C.C. will within eight days from the receipt of such request, call a meeting of the two bodies to discuss any question specified in the letter.

Alexandria, July 16.

HIGH-CLASS FOOTWEAR.

Mr. Hornstein, the boot and shoe specialist, of Avenue Boulac, Cairo, is now in receipt of a splendid assortment of high-class Ladies' and Gent's Footwear in the latest styles and sizes, more especially suitable for Summer wear.

MILITARY SITUATION.

RENEWAL OF THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

(By our Military Correspondent).

Cairo, July 16.

At last the long expected renewal of the German offensive has followed on after an interval of 50 days since the launching of the Montdidier-Noyon offensive or of 30 days if we count from the time when that offensive was brought to a stop. The new assault was delivered at dawn yesterday on a front of about 60 miles from Chateau Thierry to a point north of Suippes. Rheims therefore forms the centre of the new offensive, in which we are told that the enemy employed 60 divisions for the first assault, or roughly one division per mile, the strength the enemy generally employs in his heaviest attacks.

Just as in the case of the offensive of May 28, the direction of the present offensive is obvious, and the enemy is directing his energies in the first place to breaking the French line and the troops holding it, before disclosing his ulterior intentions. He is attacking on both sides of a salient of which Rheims forms the apex, and he doubtless hopes in the first result of the new movement, to obtain possession of Rheims, possibly to surround some of the Allied troops in the salient and to bring about a new situation which he may exploit later either westwards towards Paris, or eastwards towards Verdun.

From a Foreign Office communiqué dated July 11, we gather that the High Command was well aware that the new offensive was coming on the point of being resumed, while Paris reports of the first clash say that the enemy's attack was delivered just where and where it was expected. The enemy will therefore have to dispense with the element of surprise, which he has generally had on three earlier occasions in bringing to bear in favour of his first assault. Nevertheless we must expect some loss of ground in the first few days of the new effort. It is almost a foregone conclusion that the empty shell of Rheims, which has long been prepared for evacuation will now pass temporarily into the enemy's hands. No doubt this fact has contributed to his selection for the quarter for the new attack. Where the initiative in the offensive is deliberately left to the enemy it is inevitable that he will concentrate where should win some ground at each onset, and though we may hope that under present conditions the enemy's new offensive will meet with as disastrous a repulse as his blow between Montdidier and Noyon, it is strikingly suggestive of nothing else than a gradual but continuing process of forcing the Allies to retreat, and this is bringing us steadily nearer to final victory.

FIRST REPORTS FROM THE FRONT.

News from the front is still too scanty to enable us to obtain any idea of the course of events. The enemy appears to have made a great risk in pushing his extreme left wing across the Marne at Chateau Thierry, which was presumably secured beforehand by an American counter-attack in which more than 1,000 prisoners were taken. For the rest the attack appears to have been pushed home with, as is usual for the first hours of such an offensive, the enemy has got across the Marne at Verneuil, and has also penetrated the French line east of Rheims at Prunay. The enemy's own account is anything but enlightening, and gives rather the impression that he is disappointed by first results. He says: "South west and east of Rheims we have penetrated into positions of the enemy's line." Not a word about the 25 miles or so of line attacked east of Rheims, which is the most clearly the sector that Ludendorff wisely adopts a much more modest style of reporting than Hindenburg. It is quite clear that the Allies are very pleased in this communiqué but even so, it is obvious that the writer of this communiqué is not probably impressed by the first reports from the battle front.

DIVIDED COUNSELS IN GERMANY.

When Kuehlmann made his famous speech confessing that military victory was impossible, he expressed the opinion that this speech had been made not so much because of any serious difference of opinion between the civil and military authorities in Germany, but because it suited the German General Staff that the speech should be made at that moment. Kuehlmann, one of the most skilful and to the Allies one of the most dangerous men whom Germany possessed, has been sacrificed and he has been replaced by a mere bureaucrat, one Admiral Hintze, who is of course nothing but a tool of the military party. Kuehlmann was not sacrificed until a careful study of German public opinion subsequent to the speech had resulted in a decision against the policy with which he had become identified. As a test of German public opinion the speech exactly fulfilled the requirements of the German General Staff. It evoked assent only from the Majority Socialists, a portion of the Majority Socialists and from a few thinking Germans amongst almost all classes except those identified with the Fatherland Party. It made very clearly that Germany as a whole still solidly believes the promises made to her at the beginning of the war of a great victory which believes that war can be made to pay. She is prepared to suffer for victory and regards as heresy any statements that Germany can possibly be beaten. She was prepared to listen to peace talk and Reichstag resolutions in favour of a negotiated peace last year, always on the tacit understanding that these were mere ruses de guerre to aid Germany over a difficult situation. But now she is drunk with the victory over Russia and calls upon the General Staff to make good its promises, to inflict a defeat upon the whole world, and to annex whatever territories it may be convenient for Germany to possess. With Germany in her present mood, for which the General Staff has only itself to blame, there is no choice. It has been hinted that the task is impossible, and all Germany has shown that she insists that the attempt be made. To abandon the offensive would be to confess defeat and to invite revolution. The General Staff has no alternative but to adopt the course marked out for it by national acclamation. Consequently Ludendorff has carte blanche to drive the German masses once more to the slaughter, though a graceful concession is made to the minority parties by the vapourings of Herr Erzberger about restoring Belgian independence restored after the war. Even at this very moment when the Press at large is demanding the annexation of half the surface of the globe, and all the grandiose schemes of the early days of the war are being revived, the Chancellor keeps up his peace offensive in a minor key, so that whenever needful it may at once be restored to its late position as the dominant voice of Germany.

As might have been expected the present offensive is greater than anything Ludendorff has attempted before. The four previous offensives have been launched respectively with 40, 9, 25, and 18 divisions. Yesterday 60 divisions attacked simultaneously on a front of 60 miles. Who knows what might have happened had Ludendorff succeeded in bringing 60 divisions to bear in his first attack on March 21? The relative strengths of the Allied and German forces are very different now, since well over one million American besides British and Italian reinforcements have arrived to aid our French allies. To sustain an advance by 60 divisions an even greater force will be necessary than was used to sustain the first great advance by 40 divisions. It will be remembered that it did not take very long for 150 German divisions to become involved on that occasion. We think that the Allies can rejoice that the counsel of the military party in Germany has triumphed and that the German army is definitely committed to this final attempt to bid for a victory which we know to be unobtainable. In proportion as the German reserves are reduced by these costly efforts, so the final and decisive phases of the war will be shortened.

THE NEWS OF THE DAY.

The pick-up at Dickebush brings the total of prisoners to 300 and has been a brilliant night exploit of our line near Villers-Bretonneux. On the Rhine Front our long distance bombs have destroyed the railway station of Munchen Gladbach, an important junction on the lines leading from Cologne, Dusseldorf and Essen to the Belgian frontier. In Albania the Allied line is steadily moving northward. The news from Russia continues good. The Czecho-Slovak movement is gaining weight because the latter are utilising the mobilisation ordered by the Bolsheviks to send the recruits in their own ranks. That gives us an interesting indication of the extent to which the Bolsheviks have lost control. It is also interesting to note that the Bolsheviks have so far "suppressed" the anti-Bolshevik movement in Moscow, that they have themselves been obliged to transfer their capital to Murom, a town 150 miles further north.

The Czecho-Slovak movement in Austria has now become so powerful that, as admitted in a wireless communiqué sent out from Vienna, a congress has just been held there to "demand the creation of an independent Czecho-Slovak State, with its own administration, its own country and under its own rulers." It is difficult to appraise what things must be coming to in Vienna when such messages are sent out in the official wireless. It reads as if the Austrian Government were singing its own swan song.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market was active yesterday. The following were the officially quoted closing prices:—

Unified closed at £95 1/2 a rise of 1/2.

Agricultural Bank dropped 1/16 closing at £6 3/16, business being done at £6 1/4 6 7/32 and 6 3/16.

Credif Foncier bonds issue 1903 were at fr.291.

Business was done in National Bank which dropped 7/32 to £18 17/32, business being done at that price and at £18 9/16.

Cassa di Sconto remained at fr.94, Alexandria Water Co. were in demand at £12 13/16.

Building Lands rose 1/30 to £1 23/32 1/64, business being done at £1 3/4, 1 23/32, 1 3/4, and 1 23/42 1/64.

Wadi Kom Ombo were at £5 7/32 a drop of 1/32 business being done at that price and at £5 1/4.

Societe du Behera dropped 3/16 to £13 1/4, business being done at that price and at £13 3/8, and Priv. shares closed unchanged at £4 25/32, business being done at £4 13/16 and 4 25/32.

Chek Fadl rose fr. 1/2 to fr.101 1/2, business being done at that price and at fr.101.

Urbaines and Rurales were at £3 1/8, a drop of 1/32.

Union Foncier d'Egypte dropped 3/32 closing at £3 3/8, business being done at that price and at £3 3/8 1/64.

Gabbari Land dropped 1/32 to £-27/32.

Societe Fonciere rose 1/32 closing at £6 13/16.

Societe des Immeubles were in demand at £6 1/16 a rise of 1/32.

Business was done in Priv. Trams which rose 1fr. 1/2 closing at fr.103; deferred shares closed unchanged at fr.145, business being done at that price and at fr.144.

Nungovich Hotels remained at £6.

Salt and Soda were firm at 46/4 1/2 a drop of 1/6d, business being done at 47/6, 47/4 1/2, 47/3, 47/1 1/2, 47/-, 46/10 1/2, 46/4 1/2, 46/6, 46/6 and 46/4 1/2d.

Business was done in Brasseries d'Egypte at fr.342.

Associated Cotton Ginners dropped 1/32 to £- 15/16 and Sidi Salem Estates were at £2 1/8 a drop of 1/32.

Port Said Salt dropped 3/8d, closing at 125/- business being done at 126/- 125/6, 125/3, and 125/-.

Deferred Comptoir were offered at £3 a drop of half a pound.

There was some business in New Egyptian Co. which dropped 3d. closing at 17/7 1/2d, business being done at that price and at 17/6 and 17/9d.

NO MORE INDIGESTION.

WONDERS ACHIEVED BY MAGNESIA.

It seems reasonable to suppose that in a short time there will be no more indigestion or dyspepsia. The old style "digestives" such as bismuth, pepsin, charcoal, soda, etc., which after all are only temporary in their effects, are rapidly becoming discarded in favour of a simple antacid, known to chemists as *bisurated* magnesia, with the result that physicians are being called upon to treat fewer cases of stomach trouble than ever before. This is not so very surprising when it is remembered that, according to available statistics, over ninety per cent of all stomach troubles are due to acidity. Bisurated magnesia, in either powder or tablet form, may readily be obtained from any chemists at a small cost, and half-a-teaspoonful or two tablets taken in a little water after meals will immediately neutralise all harmful acids in the stomach, prevent fermentation, and thus render the food easy of digestion.

MEAT.

As Meat imported from overseas is no longer available, the NILE COLD STORAGE Co., have made arrangements to provide their Customers, until such times as imports can be resumed, with the best native meat, selected under their own supervision and stored in their own Cold-rooms.

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