PORT SAID NOTES.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY SHORTAGE.

(From our own Correspondent).

Port Said, Jan. 29.

There has been much discontent here lately as to the lack of gas and electricity. During the acute oil crisis some time ago, those who could, were asked to use gas, and the pressure was such that it was hardly possible to cook anything by it, but latterly it has become much worse, and one has often had to use several matches to light one gas ring, as the flame was so small that it would not run round, and on occasions it has been almost impossible to boil a kettle of water. If one complains to the man who looks periodically at the gas meter (this part of the business at any rate is not neglected by the gas company), he looks wise, and says he will tell the manager, and there the matter ends. The electric light also has been going from bad to worse, and a night or two ago a red glow on the filaments was all the indication of a current that the bulb would give. There was a sudden run on candles, which shed a fitful light on shop counters and rooms. The only hotel that did not have to use candles to light their dining room for dinner, was the Eastern Exchange, who have their own lighting plant. It is difficult to see what can be done, when our Municipality have put the monopoly of both these necessities of life into the hands of one private company. A list of the shareholders might make interesting reading.

We saw in the "Egyptian Gazette" a few days ago, under the heading "steamer movements," that a certain ship had been in Alexandria harbour for several weeks, and was still taking in cargo. If that is "movement" it will be interesting to know what happens when she really stops. However, in Port Said ships come and go quickly enough, and hardly a day passes without some large transport crowded with men entering or leaving the harbour, though the traffic through the Canal is not what it was in December.

The rain which seems to have been pretty heavy in other parts of Egypt, was not abnormal here, and there was no question of dislocation of traffic or anything of the sort.

Many of the old trees in the Chareh Eugenie have been cut down, and the street now presents a very bare appearance; however the ground is being prepared afresh; also round the Sporting Club where the trees have been uprooted, large and deeper holes, "better 'oles' in fact" have been dug, which perhaps may give the arboreal embellishments of Port Said a dog's chance, especially now that the war is over, and the streets being lighted again, there is less excuse for finding one's way along the road, by going from tree to tree, and accosting each tree with "Sin club"?

The "Fairies" hope to revisit the Eldorado next Saturday afternoon, and tell us again of their doings.

SALE OF ARMY HORSES.

To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette."

Sir,—I agree with your correspondent on the subject of the Sale of Army horses locally, but I fear that a letter or two in the local press is not sufficient to stop the proposed evil.

Surely it should not be difficult to prepare a petition for signature by all animal lovers and draw the attention of the authorities to the fact that a horse is happier dead than in the shafts of a local buggy. We residents saw for ourselves three years or so ago, the shameful condition of the unfortunate horses sold by the Army to local owners, (I do not think one would be strictly correct in saying Native, as I understand many of the buggys on the streets are hired out by non-Egyptian subjects). In course of time the cast horses disappeared from the streets, probably died from hunger, inattention and overwork, now it is proposed to let the local owners have another lot of cheap horseflesh. Why? Is the money so urgently needed? Perhaps the Hon. Secretaries of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in Alexandria and Cairo, have some statistics re the numbers of cast horses arrested(i.e. taken from their owners) treated in their Infirmaries, discharged as fit or killed as unfit.

Yours, etc.
A Horse Lover.

Cairo, January 25.

THE 1915 STAR AND OVERSEAS CHEVRONS.

(To the Editor of the Egyptian Gazette.)

Sir,—As an outsider in these matters it has struck me that the distinctions above-mentioned are intended for those who left their home and country in the early days of the war to face the discomforts of active service in a theatre of war.

It is a matter of surprise to me therefore to see civilians, who have never quitted their comfortable Cairo homes but who have donned uniform and accepted temporary and local commissions to do civilian work on behalf of an over-pressed army, donning several overseas chevrons and the 1915 ribbon because they consider that comfortable Cairo is a theatre of war!

Why! even those gallant Territorials who volunteered for France in August 1914 but were sent to India, though of course permitted to wear overseas chevrons, are not allowed to put up the 1915 Ribbon because India is not a theatre of war.

India is a far less comfortable climate and country to endure than Egypt.

To grant the 1915 Star to Cairenes or Alexandrines who have remained always at home is of course to stultify the whole thing.

At any rate they are not entitled to chevrons.

It is curious that although the wearing of chevrons by those entitled is compulsory under Army Council Instructions emanating from the King that many officers seem to think it is a matter left to individual taste.

It is a court martial offence to wear Chevrons when not so entitled or authorised by competent authority and equally so to refuse to wear them when so entitled.

Interested Civilian.

Cairo (Meadi), January 27.

THE DULCITONE.

has all the advantages of a piano, but it never gets out of tune. It has an agreeable sound and touch, is very light and portable, and its cost is one third of that of a piano. It being the greatest invention in the world of music—Ask British make.

Agents: Lifonti, Rue Rosette, Alexandria and Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo.

THE NATIVE PRESS.

CAIRO'S FALLING BUILDINGS.

The "Ahram" (a letter to the editor).—Last night a large portion of the Halwagi building in front of the Azhar University, gave way. Fortunately the accident took place towards dawn while people were in bed. Had it occurred during the day it would have caused a great disaster. There was no need for the building to remain where it was, and a decision had already been given for its demolition for the purpose of leaving a clear space before the Azhar. But the question is why it should have been left to collapse. The Architect of the Kism of Darb el-Ahmar is responsible for the event, which is a result of neglect. A part of the building had already been pulled down and the engineer should have understood that something should be done to prevent a disaster. Now it is necessary for the Waqfs Department to remove the rest of the building as soon as possible for otherwise a graver accident may take place.

TEMPERANCE IN EGYPT.

The "Akhbar" (from an article on temperance "Here and in the United States"). — Everyone who knows the situation in Egypt in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, is greatly surprised at the prevalence of "drinking" among all classes of the community, in spite of the fact that the majority of the population are Moslems whose religion forbids the use of intoxicating liquors. What is more curious still is that "drinking" has become a sort of brag for many people, and both the high and low openly drink without fearing any criticism. You can see glasses of wine arrayed on tables in public places—cafes and bars—as if they were glasses of water. We have heard that there is a society in Egypt for the abolition of alcohol drinks, but we cannot see that any thing has been done in this respect; and we do not think that any call for the giving up of drinking in this country will meet with success. Egypt, however, is instanced of such organisations to resist the spread of intemperance, which harms health and is against the doctrines of religion and in many cases lowers the dignity of men.

CAIRO'S FLOOD VICTIMS.

The "Afkar." — On Sunday afternoon, we betook ourselves to Manshiet el-Sadr in order to see the victims of the flood. The bread ration which is being distributed among these people is, we were told, two loaves to each man or woman and one loaf to each child, per day. The only cooked food which is being served to them is lentils mixed with some rice, and this they take at breakfast, midday meal and supper. The victims complain of the lack of warm coverings to protect them against the intense cold at night. They also say that they have no idea as to what the Government may do for them in the future. Will it build new cottages for them or will it leave them to house themselves. We saw a miserable family composed of 16 persons staying in one tent, where they sleep together on one mat. The victims also told us that the Government would make them remove the debris of their old cottages, and they say that this is too much for them to do. To all this we call the Government's attention and ask the authorities to give every possible help to the unfortunate victims in fulfilment of a high duty.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN SYRIA.

"Wady el-Nil." — According to recent news from Syria published in some of the Cairo journals, the new Government of Syria has organised new schools and intends to introduce compulsory education into the country. We are glad that our immediate neighbours will get that great advantage—compulsory education—which is in the nature of things cautious and general. For our part, we look with regret at our educational life, owing to the lack of such necessary developments in our country, where we have preceded others in seeking reform and requesting the fulfilment of essential duties. We also entertained more aspirations for the raising of education in our land to perfection. In Syria the new authorities have started to built schools and make preparations for compulsory education almost as soon as they took up the course of events, and here our Ministry, which knows that education was compulsory in Egypt when the country's budget was almost less than the death of its present budget, has deprived us of this privilege. As for the necessary materials required for the scheme, it is obvious that there can be no comparison between the present financial resources of Syria and the resources of Egypt.... The Ministry of Education ought to see that the educational life which is expected to begin (?) according to the above prospects in Syria will produce in a short time more results than Egypt has failed to produce, hitherto, here. Let our Ministry take account of the movement on foot in the country, and act in time, and let it fear that, unless it undertakes to proceed with a similar movement, it will be blamed.

SHEIKH SHAWISH AGAIN.

The "Mokattam" (from its correspondent at Tarsus, in the Vilayet of Adana, Anatolia). — When the European troops occupied Constantinople, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shawish (the notorious agitator who had, a few years ago, to quit Egypt where he was the editor-in-chief of the organ of the National Party) left that capital for Konieh, Anatolia, where he is now living. Sheikh Ahmed el-Senussi of Tripoli has also come to the same vilayet.... The "Turkish Islamboul" published in Constantinople, demands the expulsion of Haidar Effendi, Minister of Justice, from the Cabinet of Tewfik Pasha, because he is one of those who arrogated the form of a fatwa of starting a Jehad (religious war) at the time when Kheiri Effendi was the Sheikh of Islam. The journal goes on to say that these people have used the Sharia for other purposes of serving their wicked ends to the great dissatisfaction of the Islamic world, which now asks for their punishment for the ruin and be published in the Press soon.

GENERAL ALLENBY AT BEYROUT.

The "Bazar" (from an account by its Beyrout correspondent of the welcome afforded to General Sir Edmund Allenby in that town, in Syria, on his official arrival there on Monday, the 13th inst.). — At about 10.30 a.m. on Monday, the 13th inst., General Allenby arrived at Beyrout on a warship. The steamers anchored in the harbour were all beflagged on the occasion as were the quays and the streets through which the General's procession was to pass. Salvoes were fired by ships in the harbour on his arrival. The General was received at the quay by the General Officer Commanding the Division, General Bulfin; the Military Governor General, his aides-de-camp, the staff officers of the Division; the Officer Commanding the French Force; the British Officer Commanding the City of Beyrout and the officers of both the British and French garrisons. The General then entered the town in a motor car with General Bulfin on his side, other welcomers following in other cars.... The procession passed through the demolished street which is being built and which it has been decided to give the name of General Allenby, in perpetuation of the name of the liberator of Syria.... On arrival at the entrance of the Sahel el-Horieh Garden which was beautifully decorated, General Allenby was received by the President and members of the Municipality and the members of the reception committee and the elite of the notables of Beyrout. The President of the Municipality made a speech of welcome to the General, congratulating him on his glorious victory. He spoke of the valour of his troops, and on his achievements and plans which had warded off further misfortunes from the inhabitants of Syria who welcomed him with delight. The General replied, that he believed that oppressed peoples had been ridden of tyrannical rule for ever, and said he would never forget the kind feelings of the people of Beyrout who had given his name to one of the streets of their town. He then shook hands with a number of persons and left the garden amidst cheers and clapping of hands. He proceeded to the British and French troops in the square and then motored to General Bulfin's residence in the palatial house of Eliss Bey Sursock, where His Excellency held a reception.... At about 1 p.m. General Allenby went to the Beyrout Club where a banquet was given in his honour by the Municipality.... The party was then invited to a kiosk looking over the sea, in the Club and the President of the Municipality there presented General Allenby with a precious sword ornamented with gold with a number of ayas from the Koran inscribed thereon, together with the following words beautifully engraved on both sides of the blade, in both Arabic and English (translated from the Arabic): "Presented by the City of Beyrout to His Excellency General Sir Edmund Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of the E.E.F., January 1919." The General on receiving the sword from the President said, "I thank you from the depth of my heart for this precious present. It is a great honour to me to be the General Officer Commanding the Expeditionary Force that has delivered Syria from the tyranny of the Turks. This sword bears two symbols—the steel which represents justice and power, and the gold that represents wealth, and I sincerely wish both for Syria; and I shall keep this sword as a precious souvenir from the city of Beyrout to be preserved by my family for ever."

SHIPPING FREIGHTS.

The "Mokattam." — There is further news to-day that shipping freights will be reduced shortly. It is obvious that the cost of transport by sea rose very excessively as a result of the employment of most of the steamers available for conveying troops and ammunition, and also owing to the sinking of detention of a large number of ships during the war, and to the fact that the countries which have collieries have been entirely cut off from their fleets and works which consumed fuel day and night. The rise in the costs of transport is accordingly due to the dearness of coal and the shortage of steamers, and these two reasons have ceased now to exist. Prices may not return to their pre-war level, owing to the abundance of money in the hands of people, but they will no doubt be reduced to a "sober" degree. We hope that the merchantmen which America has kindly sent out to Syria conveying food and clothes, will be sent again to this country in order to convey Syrian refugees to their country. They have been long from home and they are very anxious to go back but they cannot find anyone to answer their request owing to the shortage of means of transport.

CLAIMS OF THE LEBANON.

The "Ahram" (from an article contributed by a "Lebanese" on the material damage caused to the people of the Lebanon by the Turks, as a result of their interference with their affairs during the war). — As for the indemnity which the Lebanese are entitled to claim from the Turks, for they were by no means obliged to participate in the payment of war expenses, this should be made up as follows:— 1. The Government taxes imposed on the Lebanon for three years, amounting to over £400,000; 2. The prices of horses, mules and other animals taken from the Lebanon, amounting to £200,000; 3. The prices of wood cut off from the Lebanon forests, amounting to about £100,000; 4. The prices of sailing boats belonging to Lebanese people, either sunk, or confiscated, £30,000; 5. The prices of sacks, tins, textile goods and medical drugs, amounting to about £50,000; 6. Reparation for the Lebanese who were imprisoned or banished, and for those who had their property confiscated and for the families of those who were put to death by the Turks, amounting to £150,000; 7. The price of the silk which the Turkish authorities had monopolised and the funds they raised and seized, £350,000.

FUTURE OF SYRIA.

The "Mokattam." — The National Syrian Committee in the United States has sent to us a programme consisting of the demands suggested to be made for the future of Syria. These demands are to the following effect:— The country shall have an independent national government under the guardianship of the three Powers which have done the greatest favour to Syria both by safeguarding and emancipating the Syrian people—the United States, France and Great Britain. The Syrian government shall be composed of several federal states enjoying local independence, but following one central government as the case is in the United States. What might be a cause of difference is the idea of placing the country under the guidance of three different Powers, and this has been explained by the Committee in question. They state that the trust should be decided upon by the Powers concerned with the approval of the Syrian people. The three Powers may either agree to choose one of them to take up the trust, or to entrust the task to a Commission representing the same Powers, which ought to act under one system without dividing the country into different divisions. The Syrians in Egypt, have opinions which will be published in the Press as soon as this is allowed.

EGYPT TO THE CAPE.

A HANDLEY PAGE PROJECT.

A Capetown telegram says that as soon as the intervening landing and petrol stations can be established between Capetown and Egypt, an experimental flight will be made by a Handley Page machine from London to Capetown. It is expected that the landing places will be 400 miles apart.

General Sykes, Chief of the Air Staff, announced that such a flight was being planned in his lecture the other day, of which a summary was given in our telegrams.

DAMANHOUR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Damanhour, Jan. 26.

Considerable interest was taken here yesterday in the elections for the Municipal Council. There were ten native candidates for the two vacancies and all published long prospectuses setting forth their programme. Those elected were Mohamed Bey Soliman el-Wekil, a leading cotton merchant of Damanhour and Ibrahim Bey Mazhar, a leading Syrian notable, the number of votes being 161 and 120 respectively. The next highest was Ali Bey, Bakhati with 119 votes.

MAIL FOR HOME.

A mail for home via Taranto will be made up at Alexandria on January 31 for ordinary correspondence at 9 a.m. and for registered letters at 8 a.m. Insured articles for this mail must be sent in to-day at 6 p.m.

PURIFICATION OF ALEXANDRIA.

WHAT IS BEING DONE.

HOPKINSON PASHA'S LETTER.

In reference to the recent measures taken by the authorities in Alexandria for the purification of Boulevard Ramleh and the neighbouring small streets, the statement made by many people that a number of the demi-mondaines who had to leave that street, have simply moved to Tewfik Pasha Street, is not true. We learn from the Morality Police Office that it is absolutely forbidden for any prostitute to open "pensions" or even to live in the Tewfik Street. If any of them did so the case would be dealt with officially. "Of course, it is much easier to guard the morality regulation when immoral houses are confined to a certain spot than when they are scattered," remarks a Morality officer, "but the question is being dealt with in accordance with the present regulations."

Boulevard Ramleh, however, is not yet quite purified, for there are two or three buildings in the locality which are still considered as private "Pensions." But the floors which have been already vacated in those buildings by the "pensions" keepers have been not allowed to be occupied by new people of the same class. These empty houses are the places talked about as purified.

To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette."

Sir,—I was surprised at the tone of the letter, which Hopkinson Pasha addressed to you yesterday on the subject of my flatering observations as to his efforts in the past to purify Alexandria by suppressing the White Slave Traffic, since he manifestly intends his letter to be of the nature of a disclaimer. That is clear from the statement that the efforts now being made towards the purification campaign in Alexandria, during his absence from Egypt, do not confirm his allegation that the purification of intercourse between the sexes is a "somewhat Utopian campaign." In a third allegation, he circumscribes the whole agitation on this subject, as a result of their interference with their affairs during the war). — As for the indemnity which the Lebanese are entitled to claim from the Turks, for they were by no means obliged to participate in the payment of war expenses, this should be made up as follows:— 1. The Government taxes imposed on the Lebanon for three years, amounting to over £400,000; 2. The prices of horses, mules and other animals taken from the Lebanon, amounting to £200,000; 3. The prices of wood cut off from the Lebanon forests, amounting to about £100,000; 4. The prices of sailing boats belonging to Lebanese people, either sunk, or confiscated, £30,000; 5. The prices of sacks, tins, textile goods and medical drugs, amounting to about £50,000; 6. Reparation for the Lebanese who were imprisoned or banished, and for those who had their property confiscated and for the families of those who were put to death by the Turks, amounting to £150,000; 7. The price of the silk which the Turkish authorities had monopolised and the funds they raised and seized, £350,000.

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