ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The market was firmer yesterday, the following being the officially quoted closing prices: —

Unified rose 1/8 to £87 3/4 and Lots Turcs fell 2fr. to fr.170 while there was no change in Banque d'Athenes which finished at fr.87.

Credit Foncier shares advanced 6fr. to fr.728 and bonds departisfent was steady, issues 1886 and 1911 closing unchanged at fr.433 1/2 and 283 1/2 respectively.

National Bank remained at £20 17/32 while Cassa di Sconto closed offered at fr. 97 showing half a franc drop; Building Lands being 1/64 higher at £1 13/16; Old and Union Fonciere closed unchanged at £3 1/8 1/64 while there was a rise of 1/64 in Gabbari Lands which closed at £ 13/16.

Priv. Trams were weaker at fr.112 1/2, 1/2fr. drop; Nungovich Hotels being firmer at £7 3/16-3/8 rise.

Société des Pressages et Depots fell 1/4£ closing offered at £31 3/4 while Salt and Soda were more active at 52/-, 4 1/2d rise; Filature Nationales being firmer at £15 5/16, 5/8 1/64 rise while Brasseries d'Egypte advanced 4fr. to fr.302.

Cotton Ginners closed unchanged at £-29/32 1/64 and Port Said Salt advanced 1s. more to 84/-, while there was a rise of 9d. in Egypt and Levant Co. which closed at 34/4 1/2; deferred shares changed hands in large numbers and closed firm at 221/- a rise of 9/6d.

EGYPT'S COTTON.

The following statistic shows the quantities of cotton and cotton seed sold in the Halakas of the Provinces, during the last financial year:

Provinces	Halakas per kantar	Halakas per ardeb
	Cotton	Cotton seed
Behera	124.886	22,645
Dakahlieh	74,753	25,686
Sharkieh	41,506	25,198
Galioubieh	37,568	9,309
Beni Suef	2.212	6,771
Fayoum	20,301	5,455
Minia	25,894	16,403
Assiout	1,261	10,050

It is worth while mentioning that the above mentioned halakas, have rendered good services to the Military Authorities, in the dura, fibs, beans and barley. About 5,874 ardebs of barley were weighed and stored in the Behera halakas; 1,800 himls of fibs in the Sharkieh; 4,214 ardebs of dura, 11,468 himls of fibs and 2,196 ardebs of barley, in the Galiioubieh; 4,509 ardebs of dura, 11,960 himls of fibs, and 522 ardebs of barley in the Fayoum; 6,700 ardebs of dura, 18,650 himls of fibs in Beni Suef and 10,202 ardebs of dura, 17,369 himls of fibs and 10,214 ardebs of beans were weighed and stored in the Minia halakas.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

Ministry of War. The adjudication which was held on May 17, 1919, for the construction of a 30-tons powder magazine, at Gebel el Giushi, Cairo, for the Egyptian Army, has been approved in favour of The Callender's Egyptian Cables Proof Co., Limited, at a total cost of L.E. 1,065.

State Domains Administration. The adjudication which was held on May 17, 1919, for the supply of tiles, has been approved in favour of Mr. S. Sornaga, Cairo, at a total cost of L.E.24.

Administration des Douanes. La Direction Générale des Douanes a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance des intéressés que l'adjudication des tarbouches a donné le résultat suivant:

Trois offres ont été recues: la Fabrique Nationale Egyptienne des Tarbouches du Caire a été déclarée adjudicataire au prix unitaire de son offre.

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Military Band Instruments,
Band and Orchestral Music,
Kindly apply to OUR SOLE AGENT, in Egypt,
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ALEXANDRIA AND CAIRO.

UNREST IN EGYPT

DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

THE PROPOSED INQUIRY.

Our telegrams gave the speech on the state of Egypt of Lord Curzon in the House of Lords on May 16 in full, but they omitted to deal with the debate on Egypt the same evening in the House of Commons, from which we give the following extracts:—

Captain Wedgwood Benn (Leith, L) initiated a debate on the state of affairs in Egypt. In 1914, he said, Egypt had arrived at a definite milestone in her history, and one might say justly that the good work of Lord Cromer and his successors had come to an end. It was not surprising that the Egyptian Nationalists at that time considered the prospects of the realization of their hopes rosier than it had ever before been. Then the war broke out, and in December, 1914, the proclamation was issued which altered the status of Egypt. He thought it was not too much to say that the reason for the calmness in Egypt, even when the Turks were successful and had overrun the Sinai Peninsula, was that the Egyptians trusted that the assistance they had rendered to the Empire in the war would not be permitted to interfere with the satisfaction of their legitimate aspirations. For the period of the war it was very hard to give much information. They knew, however, that food was very freely commandeered, that there were complaints that reservists were being enrolled to be soldiers, work which they could perfectly well do as civilians. The armistice came, he thought the Egyptians saw the birth of liberty in other parts of the world, no announcement was made by the Government as to the continuance of constitutional government in Egypt. Then occurred the arrest of Zaghloul, and his deportation with some of his friends, to Malta, and the resignation of Roushdi, the Prime Minister, of whose services to the Allies during the war it was quite impossible to speak too highly. And then there were riots. The peace that had reigned in 1914, because there was trust, was converted by somebody in 1919, when there was disappointment, into a national insurrection. The causes of the outbreak were, in his judgment, material, personal, and political. What steps were taken by the Government when the free export of cotton was stopped to absorb the supply and to alleviate the harship which must have fallen on Egypt's principal source of wealth? Among the personal causes was the unnecessary extension, as he thought, of martial law.

CAUSE OF THE TROUBLES.

The unrest among that large, busy and influential class of people was caused by the fact that changes were in the air, and nobody had been consulted. The underlying cause was that the status of Egypt had been changed. The Egyptians wanted self-government; they saw the new nations, especially the Arabs, going to Paris; and they asked permission to present their case. But, unlike the Sinn Feiners, they did not ask to go to Paris; they asked to come to London to present their case. He asked the hon. gentleman (Mr Cecil Harmsworth) to say plainly, by what responsible for the refusal of permission. (Hear, hear.) Lord Curzon said the deputation could not be received because the Foreign Secretary was busy at the Peace Conference. If that were the cause it was a stultification of Lord Curzon's own position. With regard to remedies, it was perfectly obvious that they ought at once to get into consultation with Roushdi and Zaghloul, and it was obvious that there must be an inquiry in Egypt. The inquiry should deal with the material grievances of the fellahen and with the question of the new constitutional government of Egypt. He ventured to suggested that there must be some alteration in the management of Egypt from this country, and, he did not believe that the Foreign office was the best qualified for the task. He suggested the formation of an Egyptian Council in this country something like that of the India Council. It was also desirable that the excellent principle set by the Government in the case of Lord Sinha should be followed in the case of one of the Egyptian statesmen who had helped us for many years. The sooner the Foreign Secretary could come back to his own Department the better it would be.

REFORM IN WHITEHALL.

Major the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore (Stafford C.U.) agreed that if they were going in the future to improve the relations between Englishmen whose task it was to help and to administer Egypt, they had got to have quite a different and a much better machinery in Whitehall. (Cheers). Those who had the care and watching of Egyptian administration were men who were not in any way qualified for the task by past experience and by training, because they were diplomatists and Foreign Office men. The hon. and gallant member was wise in not criticizing the conduct of the military authorities in Egypt during the war, because the record of successes generals and of the British troops was one to be proud of, and the administration particularly under General Maxwell and General Allenby was a striking proof of the fact that generals were not always pure militarists. As to cases which had been cited of the punishment of camp followers, these men were invariably handed over to the Egyptian police.

It was very easy in England to work up a great sentimental agitation about the fellah, but it was entirely due to the British in Egypt that the use of the fellah had been reduced. The fellah was used for practically everything under the Turk and the Egyptian. The main causes of the trouble were undoubtedly political, and much of it could have been foreseen. It should now be admitted that it was a mistake not to accede to the request of Zaghloul Pasha when he asked to visit London. It was committed because London was not sufficiently in touch with political conditions in Egypt. What they all wanted was a better future for Egypt, and constructive proposals for the development of government in that country. It was certain, if we were to be successful, that we must consult with Egyptians as to the form which the government of the Protectorate should take. He believed that General Allenby was doing that at the present time. But he agreed that something more would be necessary. A Commission should go out to consider not only the constitutional question, but the whole administrative machinery from top to bottom. He expressed the hope that members in future would be given more information, if not, there was going to be a dog fight between the House and the Foreign Office, and nobody was the better for that. He hoped that men would be taken into the Foreign Office who knew Egypt, and understood both the British and the Egyptian points of view, and that an Egyptian Department of the Foreign Office would be formed which would have the administration of that which was one of the most important treats imposed upon us to-day.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BRITISH TROOPS.

Mr. Spoor (Bishop Auckland, Lab.) said there was a feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction throughout the Moslem world, and the Government should do all that was in its power to assure the Moslem population that the British attitude towards it was one of the utmost friendliness. The situation in Egypt appeared to have been aggravated enormously because Egypt was under the control, and military control of a very short-sighted kind.

Earl Winterton (Horsham and Worthing, C.U.)— As an old member of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, may I ask the hon. gentleman if he can justify the very serious statement he has made? (Cheers).

Mr. Spoor said there were referred to in the report, which was handed to the hon. member by Colonel Wedgwood) from Egypt.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth.—Will the hon. gentleman say if it is the same report as has been issued by the Egyptian Association?

Mr. Spoor said it was. From the facts quoted in the report, whether they were absolutely correct or not, there appeared to be ample justification for an immediate inquiry. (Hon. members.— What are they?) The hon. member quoted a statement by a village sheikh, a responsible Egyptian official, in regard to his own personal experience.

Lt.-Colonel W. Guinness (Spinkes.— Does the hon. member think that British troops would act in the way that this Egyptian speaks of? (Cheers).

Mr. Spoor.— I would be very regretful to think for a single moment that British troops would be guilty of such atrocities.

Mr. R. M'Neill (Canterbury, C.U.).— The hon. member begin by stating, on his authority as a member of this House, that these reports were authenticated. (Cheers).

Mr. Spoor replied that he thought he made it clear—at any rate, he intended to do so—that these allegations were apparently well authenticated. ("No.") The allegations had become so general, not only in this country but throughout Europe, that it was high time that an inquiry was held. It was hinted that an International Commission was to be sent to the Near East to make an inquiry before the status of those districts was decided upon. Why not make the Commission go to Egypt to make full inquiry into the claims of the Egyptians?

THE USE OF THE LASH.

Earl Winterton (Horsham and Worthing, C.U.) said he could not believe that an incident of the character referred to by the hon. member did in fact occur. During the whole time he was in Egypt—and he was there for a long period—he was a member of the House—he never once saw a British private soldier guilty of any kind of cruelty towards natives. He did not think members were entitled to make such statements involving charges of cruelty unless they were prepared to vouch for them.

He did not justify whipping for petty larceny, but he did justify the flogging of the natives under military control and on the whole he thought that the military control had not been more drastic than it need have been. He thought that at the outbreak of the riots the military did not act firmly enough. He read a letter from Mr. Johnson, who was a Chief justice in India, and was in Egypt during the riots. The letter stated that "soldiers of the King were spat upon in the streets of Cairo and no reprisals were taken," and that "two British gunners were fired tied to trees, and beaten to unconsciousness for no offence." There was a great deal of unrest in the Moslem world now. He hoped, too, that on an early opportunity there would be a statement from a responsible Minister that there was no intention of the Allies to deal with that portion of Turkey which was purely Turkish by race. He believed there was no such intention, but it ought to be publicly stated by the heads of the Allied Governments. He hoped that it would be possible that His Majesty in Council should sign a proclamation similar to that put in force when the late Queen Victoria became Empress of India that the holy places of Islam would always be in the hands of Moslems, a fact which, owing to agitation, there seemed some doubt about in Moslem countries. It ought to be clearly laid down in such a proclamation that we are an Empire and as Christians were not concerned as to the seat of the Caliph's future home. The troops responsible for defeating the Turks in Mesopotamia and Egypt were two-thirds of the whole British troops, and the majority of that two-thirds were Moslems, and it was a victory of justice and right against a form of hideous tyranny and cruelty.

Colonel Wedgwood said the most important duty of the Government was to have proper inquiry into cases of outrages committed on either side in the Egypt, and to publish the true facts. He had no doubt the fundamental cause of the trouble was the collapse of the war and the spreading of the idea that liberty was to be distributed broadcast, to everybody.

A commission like that which went to India the year before last should be sent to Egypt with a view to the establishment there of representative government—he did not say responsible government at present.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Guinness (Bury St. Edmunds, C.U.) said that when he served in Egypt three years ago there was very little military interference with civil administration. There was, no doubt, a great deal of maladministration by native officials, and for that the British Administration got the discredit. Discredit was deserved for the laxity of British administration during the war but that should not lead the Government to give a greater measure of native control which would aggravate the evil from which the fellaheen had been suffering.

ON THE MOHARREM BEY TRAM.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,— Every afternoon I boom in from the car on the above route. I am obliged to stand the whole journey on the platform, together with a good many others, as the seats inside of the car are filled.

Would it not be advisable for the Alexandria Tram Coy. to add another car on this line, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock and so eliminate the danger of travelling in this way?

I trust you will give space for this in the columns of your paper. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours, &c.,
(One of your subscribers).
Alexandria, May 29.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

EGYPT'S TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The "Mokattam."— This rapid mail which we call "Telegrams" continues to come late, from London about six or seven days late, which makes the ordinary mail almost overtaken it. Among the London telegrams published in another column in our issue of to-day there is a message dated May 16, and there are telegrams dated May 20 and 21; and the latest mail from London has brought to us newspapers of May 17. It is thus difficult for one who follows the proceedings of the Peace Conference to know the latest reports of its work; the Paris telegrams are few and brief, and our special telegrams have ceased to come for some days.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE IN EGYPT.

The "Ahram" (from its Alexandria Office, discussing the conditions of Sheri Mazounah Sheri clerks' authorised to draw up marriage contracts and divorce certificates for Moslems by order of the Ministry of Justice, under the supervision of the Mehkemeh Sharieh):—About three weeks ago, the Sheri Mazouns in Alexandria managed to organise an association for themselves in this town, with a view to improving their position and safeguarding their interests. The first step which the association found necessary to be taken for that purpose was the amalgamation of the offices of Mazouns in each of the different parts of the town, on the understanding that the Mazouns of each district should work in one place for the whole district and share the profits of their work fairly among themselves. In order to carry out its decision the Association approached the Judge of the Mehkemeh Sharieh, which delegated Sheikh Abdul Hafiz Suleiman as a clerk entrusted with the supervision of the Mazouns service, to back up the committee on behalf of the Mehkemeh, with the result that the Mazoun offices were amalgamated in five kisms of Alexandria, Mamlekh, Gumrook, Karmous, Lebban, and Ramleh. The arrangement, however, failed to succeed; the amalgamation work was soon spoiled by untoward acts on behalf of some members of the Association who felt they would have been better without restrictions and so the Association has renewed its efforts to put matters right. They have asked the Mehkemeh to give efficient help in this affair. The movement looks to be very curious to us, for, so far as we see, it is in the interest of the Government and the Mehkemeh Sharieh to introduce reform into the system of the Mazoun service; the step voluntarily taken by the Mazoun Association ought to have been taken officially by the authorities. As many of our readers cannot understand the object which the amalgamation decision is meant to serve, I may explain the question briefly as follows: A Sheri Mazoun, it is understood, is an official authorised to draw up marriage contracts, divorce certificates and the like. He receives his appointment from the Ministry of Justice upon the request of the Mehkemeh Sharieh (Mohammedan Law Court) and in this respect he is a Government official; but the Mazoun receives no salary from the Government treasury, and has to rely on the fees and other sorts of payments he receives from his clients, bridegrooms and divorcees for the documents he writes for them, to make their marriage or divorce legal. There are 41 Mazouns in Alexandria—one in the Kism of Manshieh, 4 at Moharrem Bey, 4 in the Attarin, 5 at Ramleh, 6 in the Lebban, 6 at Minet el Basal, 7 at Gumrook, and 8 at Karmous. The Mazouns of each kism are free to carry out their functions within their district for any inhabitant of that district, and this absence of particular spheres, in the nature of things, makes very difficult for them to do as many sheri contracts and certificates as possible within the same kism. When any man or woman wishes to embark on matrimony or divorce he finds several Mazouns ready to materialise his object from the sheri standpoint. In the way of competition the Mazouns individually employ brokers, and brokers can only get paid out of the profit. They do not mind making arrangements of a nature to bring about untoward results so long as each broker succeeds in bringing clients to his Mazoun. If a soldier, for instance, wished to get married, and agreed to find some way to evade responsibility in connection with military orders, the broker would be too pleased to present him to the Mazoun as a civilian. If any one wished to get rid of his wife without legal formalities, the broker would find a man to represent that wife before the Mazoun and say that she would accept the divorce and agree to the economic arrangement. This gives an idea of the reason why mazouns have to appear on numerous occasions before criminal courts for trial. The Mazoun Association now wishes to improve the system adopted by its members with a view to removing such abuses as the above mentioned, and enabling the Mazouns of each kism to work together for their district and divide the profits equally among themselves. Is it not curious that the Government should not provide offices to do official work without any official order? Who could be more in place for the administration of offices—the Mazoun Association or the Mehkemeh Sharieh?

A NOISY WEDDING.

The "Basir" (from its Cairo correspondent): A native marriage procession was passing at a late hour last night in the district of Sayeda Zeinab, with a band at the head of it. The procession was mainly composed of "fetowat" armed with sticks who shouted and made a form of a military parade in the Street. The Police objected to the noisy manifestation and advised the men to keep public order and be quieter for people were asleep. The "fetowat" showed temper and attacked the policeman concerned, the bridegroom taking part in the attack with the result that the men were arrested and taken to prison, including the bridegroom.

A JOURNAL'S LAMENT.

The "Basir" (from a brief account of the meeting of the Alexandria Municipal Commission which took place on Wednesday):—The debates were carried out in French without the usual translation into Arabic because the few native members who were present are not ignorant of the French language, but the representatives of the Arabic press, including our representative were unable to follow the French speakers, and so we have no account of the decisions taken by the Commission on the occasion. A propos, we beg to attract the attention of the authorities concerned to the fact that Arabic is the official tongue of this country, and the press only sends its delegates to the Commission in order to report to the community what its representatives do when they meet at the Municipal Hall. Now if the foreign members do not like to have speeches translated for the Arabic press, we have only to blame the native members who attend the meeting and take no notice of the native press in this respect, even if they have some knowledge of the French language.

The "Ahaly" (from a paragraph on the same subject):— Yet it was necessary to translate the debates, firstly because Arabic is the official tongue of the country and secondly in order to facilitate the work of the representatives of the Arabic press who are not well up in French.

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CAIRO'S CABMEN.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Cairo cabowners met for the purpose of organising an Association to protect their interests and discuss general conditions. They are going to draw a special code to deal with the formation of a Caisse de Prevoyance, to help their poor and to attend to the welfare of their horses.

A telegram from Helsingfors states that by orders of the People's Commissary for Public Instruction, the famous monastery of St. Alexander Nevski at Petrograd has been declared public property, and that it is intended for use as an official dancing palace and for quartering the Red army.

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