

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

LORD CROMER'S GRANT.

THE RADICAL ATTITUDE.

We understand that when the resolution for a special grant of £50,000 to Lord Cromer is proposed by the Prime Minister, the Radical group of members of Parliament, who take a special interest in Egyptian affairs, will support the vote, although as Radicals they are opposed in principle to all grants and pensions. This attitude sounds somewhat illogical, but they feel that Lord Cromer's work in Egypt, taken as a whole and apart from certain shortcomings due to idiosyncrasy, is deserving of exceptional recognition and that his salary was insufficient, having regard to the tasks upon him, for him to have put by any money for the peacock and the younger sons. These Radicals also consider that Lord Cromer is much more entitled to £50,000 than Lord Roberts was to double that sum for the war that he did not finish, and that the amount proposed in Lord Cromer's case is by no means exorbitant.

Mr. W. Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party are going to oppose the grant.

LORD CROMER MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "EGYPTIAN GAZETTE."

Dear Sir,

Upon the 17th June you kindly accorded me space for the insertion of copy of my circular letter addressed to the British residents. I wish, before leaving Alexandria, to state the results. Over one thousand circulars were issued by post or hand, addressed in accordance with the latest completed list obtainable from the British Consulate. 130 of these have been returned through the dead letter office, and 29 replies have been received. Until public interest has been taken in the matter it appears to me to be useless to publish any details.

However, I take this opportunity of thanking those of my fellow subjects who have supported me. I am, Yours faithfully,

ROBERT J. MOSS.

Alexandria, 8th July 1907.

THE STATE RAILWAYS.

The railway administration have requested their superior council to grant the following credits.

1. £.E. 5,000 for the improvement of stations, enlargement of signal boxes etc.

These alterations have been made necessary in certain stations by the extension of the traffic.

2. £.E. 45,000 for the purchase of locomotives, wagons and material for the narrow gauge line between Kenesh and Assouan.

These additions will be necessary for the transhipment of material for the raising of the Assouan dam.

3. £.E. 5,500 for the enlargement of Shiloh-el-Kanater station.

THE DIAMOND SKULLS.

CAIRO OFFICER WINS.

We are glad to be able to report that Capt. Darrell of the Coldstream Guards, now stationed at Cairo, has won the Diamond Skulls.

Capt. Darrell was the runner up last year, and had bad luck in not winning. We offer him our sincere congratulations on his success this year. "An Old Blue" writing in the "Daily Telegraph" previous to the race said:—

"Blackstaffe does not seem to me to be as fast as last year, and if I am right he will not get the advantage of the station on Tuesday to get the best of him. I hope he will improve and better his last Darrell and McCollough should get through the first round, but Powell appears in his first heat, the Oxford man will do no further. Both McCollough and Edwards men will do well in this race later on, but their first attempt is more likely to give them valuable experience than unexpected victory. Darrell should get into the final, for he knows more of the game, and is as fit and resolute as ever. Powell is not likely to get tired in the Goblets, for if previous form goes for anything, nothing but an accident can prevent him and Johnson winning; unluckily the weather does not seem likely to facilitate their making the record they could easily have got last year had they known their time at Pawley."

THE close connection between Alexandria and Trieste renders the question of the improvement of the harbour at the Austrian port of considerable interest. His Majesty's Embassy at Vienna has forwarded a memorandum of the proposed new harbour works at Trieste, from which the following is taken:—

The inadequate nature of the harbour works at Trieste has recently formed an obstacle in the way of the further development of the Austrian-Hungarian export trade, the steady increase in which has recently drawn special attention to the insufficiencies of the principal port of the Dual Monarchy. It is universally admitted in commercial circles that the requirements of an ever-growing traffic towards the south must be met by a corresponding enlargement and improvement of the port of Trieste. This question has recently been taken up again, first by the Government, and the Austrian Minister of Commerce, Dr. Forstch, accompanied by a number of experts, has visited Trieste with the object of studying the subject, and of consulting with the municipal and maritime authorities as to the nature and extent of the improvements to be undertaken. The discussion of the new projects is beset with considerable difficulties owing to the fact of many conflicting commercial interests being at stake, and the matter is one which will not be allowed to drop, and it may be confidently anticipated that a definite decision will be arrived at before long as to the nature and scope of the improvements.

In the meanwhile new harbour works are already in course of construction and are being

carried out as rapidly as possible.

THE EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS AND CONGO FREE STATE.

The following comments on the "Egyptian Standard" appear in the "Times" above the signature of "Delta":—

"English Radicals who are inclined to take Mustapha Pasha Kamel and his 'Nationalist' followers at their own valuation may be interested to learn that, whilst British control in Egypt is sheer oppression, and men like Lord Cromer intolerable despots, the Congo Free State and its Sovereign are objects of deserving sympathy in the eyes of Egyptian patriots."

The "Egyptian Standard" of June 18 quotes with great complacency the whitewashing report lately issued by the Congo authorities and especially its glorification of King Leopold.

For the report, it seems, refutes "the attacks upon the Sovereign of the Congo State," which according to Mustapha Pasha's organ "have

been made by a corresponding enlargement and improvement of the port of Trieste. This question has recently been taken up again, first by the Government, and the Austrian Minister of Commerce, Dr. Forstch, accompanied by a number of experts, has visited Trieste with the object of studying the subject, and of consulting with the municipal and maritime authorities as to the nature and extent of the improvements to be undertaken. The discussion of the new projects is beset with considerable difficulties owing to the fact of many conflicting commercial interests being at stake, and the matter is one which will not be allowed to drop, and it may be confidently anticipated that a definite decision will be arrived at before long as to the nature and scope of the improvements.

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EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY.

BRITISH SCHOOL'S EXHIBITION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, July 2.

The annual visit to Egypt of Professor Petrie and his faithful assistants of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt is invariably productive of valuable results, and to those who are interested in the history of ancient Egypt civilization is being continually enlarged, and with it our interest in this wonderful country and its people. The British school deserves all the assistance it is possible to give them.

Last winter the work of the school was devoted to excavations at Ghizel and Ritah, and the exhibition of the antiquities found at these places, which was opened at University College yesterday, is one of the most interesting and instructive exhibits of the year. For

the first time the British School

exhibits we learn that Egypt had a unified

civilization more than 3,000 years before the

Christian era. This civilization is found to have been exactly the same soon after the founding

of Memphis as it was in a given reign of

Abydos, and the unification of the country is shown by the absence of local differences. A

very interesting discovery at Ghizel was a

tomb of the first dynasty, dating back to the reign

of King Zet. The central chamber had been

cleared of its contents for the Cairo Museum,

but the surroundings were excavated and plans

made by the British School. The tomb was

probably that of some royal personage, for

around it were found over fifty small graves,

about half of which contained remains, which

however, had been plundered in ancient times.

A number of alabaster vases and bowls of

metamorphic rock and slate were found in these graves, which are of exactly the style

of the contemporary vases from the royal tombs at Abydos, and show that there was no

difference of style between the upper and lower

country. In the royal tomb the central burial

was in a wooden chamber, and the offerings

were in four chambers, two at each end of the

great burial. Over this was a brick mastaba

with panelled sides, similar to that over Men's

grave at Nagada.

Undoubtedly the most valuable of all the discoveries were the pottery models of the soul houses, found near Assouan. The cemetery was excavated from under a layer of gravel. The concretion from the hills had gradually buried these pottery models of houses which were placed upon the graves for the shelter of the soul. In the earliest times offerings were made in the cemetery to satisfy the wandering soul when it came out of the tomb at night to search for sustenance. A mat was placed upon the ground, and a dish of flour set upon it.

From this series we are able to obtain a very good idea of the houses of the peasantry of this period. The earliest type of house had a roof like a Bedouin tent propped up with two poles in front, which passed on into the form of a portico. Later the portico had a raised wall around it, which in turn required a stairway to reach it. Then a hut was placed beneath the portico, which developed into a back chamber with doorways. In some of these houses we see models of artistic furniture, a couch with a head-rest upon it, a chair, while a bread-maker is often shown at work.

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Another striking feature of the exhibition is which two sons of the Prince of Shas-Hotep were buried. The tomb is in perfect condition and is one of the finest known of that period. The inner case is elaborately painted, and the hieroglyphs are minutely drawn, showing details of the animals. The inscription is a fol.

low: "Give an offering to the King and to Osiris lord of Daddu the great god lord of Avaris, who gave him the house, offerings, oxen, geese, clothing and perfume for the ka of the devoted son of the prince Nef-Ankh of Khuemu-AA." From this tomb we have taken two excellent models of houses, one with the mast removed, and the sail upright upon it, as it were, rowed down the Nile, the other with the mast up, and the crew engaged in hauling up the mast. Each boat has a cabin in front of which the captain is seated. The steering oars are perfect, and finely painted with eyes of Horus, lotus flowers, and rosettes on the blade. Each has a long guiding pole attached to it, and the steersman holds this with one hand so as to rotate the great car for steering, as on the boats seen on Lake Como at the present day.

There are many more points of interest, not the least striking of which are the beautiful alabaster and breccia vases, curious ivory magic wands, carved ivories, and the beautiful head work. The exhibition will be open until July 27.

NEXT SEASON'S PLANS.

During next season the British school hopes to commence the excavation of Memphis, and an appeal to the public for funds has already been made. Professor Petrie says that the annual cost of this work, which he expects will occupy 15 or 20 years, will be about £23,000, and in view of the value which will attach to the discoveries at this ancient site, it is hoped that the appeal for funds will be generously responded to. The site occupies about one hundred acres, and it is expected operations will commence as soon as the Nile is down, probably about the beginning of January next. Professor Petrie will again have the assistance of Mr. Ernest Mackay, and during a part of each season, of Mr. Howard Carter, who will undertake the artistic work, besides a number of student helpers. The exhibition will leave England in November.

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AN EX-OFFICER'S PLIGHT.

HIS WORK AT SUAKIN.

The following statement appears in the "Standard."

An instance of neglect and hardship towards a humble builder of Empire in a far outpost has come to our notice, and we gladly bring the matter to our readers in the hope that some better fortune may come to the victim through the publication of the particulars of his case.

J. F. Mason will be remembered by all those who visited Suakin between 1887 and 1900 as the "Officer Commanding Engineers."

The lack of water in that desolate outpost of Empire had to be met, as is well known, by the erection of plant to condense sea water into fresh.

For some time this was done at a cost, until Mr. Mason conceived the idea of finding water in the desert to the north of the town. Starting on the theory that where the coral reef is broken, the breach is due to that fact of an outflow of fresh water which prevents the coral from growing. Mr. Mason set to work and found a plentiful supply in a khor at Fort Charles. This in itself is an achievement well worthy of reward.

For 15 years Mr. Mason worked hard at Suakin and in the troublous times during Lord Kitchener's advance, Mr. Mason formed friendly relations with the Hauda tribe, and alone of all the white men in the fort was well treated among them.

For the economy which was found necessary by the Egyptian Government, Mr. Mason's appointment became unremunerative, and in consequence, he left the Egyptian service, without a pension, as he did not come under the terms of the Khedive's pension list.

We regret to say that Mr. Mason is now reduced to want, and is looking for an appointment as an engineer. He would admirably fill the position of an engineer and carpenter to an estate, or some similar work. We have inquired into his case, and feel that it is one that can be heartily recommended. Lord Kitchener, writing under date March 6, gives the following testimony:—

"Mr. F. Mason worked under me for many years in Egypt, where he was in charge of the condensers at Suakin. I know him to be a good, hard working, reliable man, and I am very sorry to hear that he is now out of employment."

We hope that some employer of labour will be able to find a place for a very deserving man who has given the best part of his life to arduous labour in a most inauspicious climate. Inquiries will be gladly answered by the Editor.

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