

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

EPIDEMIC.—Relapsing fever has broken out in the Kaf Zayat district.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC AGENCY will be transferred to Alexandria after the middle of June.

GERMAN MISSION.—The remaining portion of the German Mission to Abyssinia has arrived at Port Said and embarked for Berlin.

THE MINISTERS.—The Regent and the Ministers will remain in Cairo until June 12, when they will proceed to Alexandria for the summer.

STRAY AND OWNERLESS DOGS found in the Boulac district of Cairo during the night of Thursday and at daylight on Friday, will be poisoned by the police.

HORSE SHOW.—Persons attending the Horse Show at the Trotter Egyptian on Saturday next may have lunch on the grounds by ordering tables not later than Thursday.

QUARANTINE IN TURKEY.—A telegram from Constantinople states that arrivals from Port Said are subjected to a medical examination and disinfection, while rats on board are destroyed.

ENGLISH CHURCH SERVICES.—Since the June list of the Mansourah and Tanta services was published it has been thought advisable to alter the hour of the morning service from 11 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. until further notice.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.—The Ernesto Rossi dramatic club are giving a mixed programme to-morrow evening at the Popular Conservatoire of Music, no theatre being available. The performance will begin at 9.15 p.m.

SUEZ CANAL.—12 vessels passed through the Canal on the 26th inst., 8 of which were British, 1 Austrian, 1 German, 2 Italian. The day's receipts were frs. 299,075.71, making the total amount received from 1st inst. frs. 8,015,643.61.

THE COTTON WORM.—The Ministry of the Interior has sent to each of the members of the Legislative Council a copy of the circular giving a description of the cotton worm which has made its appearance at Kafr Khadr, Gharbiyah province.

KHEDIVIAL SCHOOL OF LAW.—Yacoub Pasha Artin, Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Public Instruction, has informed Omar Bey Loutfy that in consequence of the decision of the medical commission on the 23rd inst. his resignation has been accepted.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.—The report on the salaries of officials in the service of the Egyptian Government, which Mr. Machell has recently drawn up, is now in the hands of the Financial Adviser. It is not as yet decided whether it will be given in full to the Press.

AN OUTBREAK OF FIRE occurred in a house in the native quarter of Cairo at Darb el-Ahmar, on Sunday morning. The Fire Brigade, under the command of Captain Blake, promptly arrived on the scene and the fire was quickly extinguished, though not before three rooms had been destroyed.

HOTEL B&R RIVAGE.—On the occasion of the first ball of the season at the hotel, by kind permission of the Colonel and officers, the band of the Royal Berkshire Regiment will perform during dinner and for the dance. Tables for dinner on that evening should be retained by Wednesday night.

MURDER BY GHAFFIR.—Two days ago a native of Iddim attempted to enter the precincts of the market there to sell his cattle, when he was stopped by a ghaafir, who told him that all such business was prohibited owing to the cattle plague. A row ensued, and the ghaafir ended the discussion by killing the fellow with his naboot.

DEATH FROM ALCOHOLIC POISONING.—A Sudanese was found by the police yesterday in Bab el Bahr street in a very advanced state of intoxication, and as he had entirely lost the power of speech he was taken to hospital, where he soon afterwards expired. The post-mortem examination showed that death was due to alcoholic poisoning.

ARMY OF OCCUPATION.—Colonel J. Magill, M.D., C.B., R.A.M.C., F.M.O. in Egypt, accompanied by Major F. W. Hardy, R.A.M.C., Sanitary Officer in Egypt, will go to Gandia, Crete, on the 14th June, to make the annual inspection of barracks and hospitals in that station. During the absence of Colonel J. Magill, the duties of officiating Principal Medical Officer will be performed by Lieut. Col. O. Todd, R.A.M.C.

WATER MAIN BURSTS.—On Sunday after-

ALEXANDRIA HARBOUR.

NEW PASS TO BE MADE.

IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING.

A most important improvement in the port of Alexandria is to be undertaken immediately, and to-morrow the first dredger for the work is arriving at Alexandria. The Egyptian Government has determined to construct an access for entrance to the harbour as owing to the enormous and continuous increase in the size of modern vessels the present entry by way of the Boghaz pass is too small for the largest type of ships. For instance, when the White Star liner "Celtic" arrived here the season before last she had to lie outside the harbour.

The Boghaz pass is only 31 feet in depth and can only admit as a maximum vessels drawing from 29 to 30 feet of water, and then only in the smoothest sea. The new pass is to be dredged to the depth of 35 feet and will thus be able to admit the largest ships afloat.

The dredger, which arrives from Malta to-morrow, is conveyed by H. M. S. "Juno," a second-class cruiser under the command of Captain Christian, R.N. This dredger, the "St. Lawrence," belongs to the Admiralty and is of the type known as "Saints." She has very powerful machinery and it is expected that her dredging capacity is approximately six hundred tons per hour.

The construction of the new pass will begin at once. It will make the harbour most efficient, for the alternative entrance will be especially useful when one or other of the passes gets blocked. The new pass will be the same as the present pass from a navigator's point of view, with leading lights.

The Ports and Lighthouses Administration is also negotiating with the Admiralty for the hire of a second dredger for the same work. Another dredger is arriving from Cyprus in about ten days' time.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DISEASES.

Mr. Balls, the botanist of the Khedivial Agricultural Society, has been paying a visit to Alexandria in order to examine the cause of the strawberry disease in the gardens of the Mahmoudieh Canal. He found a worm, which he took to Cairo to be examined by the entomologist, Mr. Willcocks. He also collected worms that attack the sweet potato crop, and several specimens of diseased aubergines, French beans, tomatoes, roses, etc.

LAND AND MORTGAGE OF EGYPT.

The report of the annual general meeting of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt should afford considerable encouragement to the various land and trust companies which have been lately started in Egypt, for if this company can find such scope for useful and extensive operations, there is no reason why the new ventures should not have equally pleasant prospects. That the making of loans on first mortgage can be made remunerative is evidenced by the satisfactory story which the chairman, Sir E. L. Pemberton, had to tell at the meeting in London on Saturday week. The dividend of 10 per cent. is the highest ever declared by the company. The chairman explained that although in consequence of increasing competition the rate of interest has been reduced, the loans were so well placed that no falling off in the business need be anticipated. Looking at the above results, it is evident that the company's prosperity is increasing with that of the country generally.

THE PIGMIES.

Colonel Harrison, who has been ill since his return home, has been engaged in making all arrangements before the pigmies' arrival in England. The directors of the London Hippodrome have engaged them to appear at the London Hippodrome immediately after their arrival at the Royal Albert Docks, probably on June 5.

There is a sort of disposition still prevalent to regard these little people as filling, more or less, the part of the "missing link," but low though they stand in the comparative social scale, they seem to present no marked features whatever to warrant their being placed outside the class of various other ill-developed peoples. Even the silence and apathy of which so much has been made are fully paralleled among the Indian forest races of South America. They are directly attributable to the oppressive gloom and monotony of the surroundings in which for generations they have passed their lives.

It is not generally known that several of these little people have been educated and baptised in connection with the G.M.S. Mission in the Uganda Protectorate. One of them is a teacher in a mission school in Toro, near the Rwenzori Mountains. Writing of the school to children in England, a lady missionary says: "Listen to this; one class that is being taught by a pigmy from Stanley's Great Forest, who recently was baptised. His name is Bafaso, and he is very fond of dealing out whacks with that little cane, whenever a pupil slackens in his reading, or does not show him due respect."

GRAND HOTEL BONNARD.

ANGLO-AMERICAN NILE.

YEAR OF EXCEPTIONAL PROSPERITY.

The following is the report of the board of directors of the Anglo-American Nile Steamers & Hotel Co., Ltd., read at the general meeting of shareholders held in Cairo to-day.

The directors, in presenting their fifth annual report and balance sheet, are able to congratulate the shareholders on a year of exceptional prosperity in the history of the company, and to point to a steady increase in all branches of their business, the profits from all sources rising from L.E. 18,086 in 1903 to L.E. 19,471 in 1904, and L.E. 24,197 in 1905. These results have been achieved in the face of very severe competition in the freight service dating from the reduction of the Railway Administration's tariff, which involved a corresponding decrease in the rates charged by the company. The increase of river and canal traffic between Cairo and Alexandria had led to the issue of certain Government regulations which, if adhered to, are likely to have serious results upon the future of transport by steam barge in this country. Representations are, however, being made to the Public Works Department which it is hoped will lead to their modification.

MENZALGH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO. Allusion was made in the last report to an arrangement by virtue of which an option on the unissued share capital of the company was given against £10,000 of debentures in the company taken firm by a local group and the New Egyptian Company. The results of this operation have been fully commensurate with the directors' expectations. A valuable holding has been secured in the Menzaleh Canal and Navigation Company shares; and the order for the construction of their fleet is being carried out in the company's workshops; and the central management thereof is assured to this company for a period of two years at a remuneration of £500 per annum.

SAVOY HOTEL, ASSOUAN.

Apart from profits derived from the usual sources of business, a special profit has been made on the sale of the Savoy Hotel at Assouan, which has been transferred for a sum of £60,000 to the newly-formed Upper Egypt Hotels Co. The sale was made for cash, and the second instalment of £30,000 has been paid over since the accounts have been closed. The directors are of opinion that this profit should be considered as extraordinary and dealt with accordingly. They therefore propose that ten thousand pounds shall be placed to reserve and that the whole of the extraordinary expenses, amounting to L.E. 2,983.202 m/m, be written off. The continued existence of this account, which has no realisable value, appears to them undesirable. The directors, although entitled by law and precedent to their percentage of this profit, are strongly of opinion that in cases where a profit is dealt with as extraordinary and not distributed by way of dividend, the Board should also forego their claim to a share in it. No deduction on this account has therefore been made.

REDEMPTION OF DEBENTURES.

The sale of the Savoy Hotel had allowed of the amortisation of the debenture debt of the company amounting to £35,000. The interest on these debentures at the rate of six per cent. constituted a heavy charge for the company, and the directors are confident that should occasion to borrow arise in the future, they will be able to do so on more advantageous terms. As amortisation only commenced as from May 1, no change is shown in the balance-sheet in the total amount of debentures outstanding on 30th April, 1904.

RESERVE FUND.

Out of a total issue of £35,000, £1,500 had already been redeemed; this amount, being in the nature of a reserve, will now be definitely transferred to that fund, which, with the proposed addition of L.E. 10,000 and the existing sum of L.E. 541,164 m/m, will then amount to over L.E. 12,000. The directors have decided that the reserve fund shall be invested outside the ordinary business of the company.

EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL.

A portion of the company's capital remained at the present time unengaged, the means by which it can be profitably employed are having the careful consideration of the board.

MR. THURBON'S RETIREMENT.

Mr. E. B. Thurbon having informed the board that his numerous engagements did not admit of his devoting as much time to the business of the company as seemed to him desirable, an arrangement was concluded, dating from September 1, 1904, by which Mr. Thurbon, while retaining certain benefits of control, retired from the service of the company as managing director.

DIVIDEND.

The directors propose to pay a dividend of 8% and a bonus of 1% to carry forward a balance of L.E. 2,748.357 m/m. After making provision for depreciation and maintenance, interest on debentures and on the bank overdraft, and the writing off of the whole of the preliminary expenses, there remains to be distributed on this season's working alone a sum of L.E. 30,207.457 from which the directors propose to pay a dividend of 5%.

Leaving a balance of . . .	L.E. 15,251.207
To reserve account . . .	" 10,000.000
	L.E. 5,851.207
10% to board	" 925.120
	L.E. 4,726.087
Brought forward from last year	" 1,987.270
	L.E. 6,713.857
Supplementary	"

NOTES FROM PORT SAID.

DEPARTURE OF JAPANESE AGENT. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Port-Said, Monday.
Mr. Tanaka, the Japanese Agent who has been in Port Said since December last, leaves for the East to-day on board the North German Lloyd S.S. "Sachsen."

FIRE AT THE STATION.

Port-Said, Sunday.
Last night, one or two wagons filled with general merchandise, among which was a large quantity of petroleum, caught fire at the railway station. In a very short time a spare locomotive was brought along and the burning wagons were pulled away to a siding, where they were allowed to burn themselves out. No damage was done to the station itself.

CHERCHER LA FEMME.

About 10.30 p.m. yesterday the police were summoned to what is commonly known as the rue Babel, in a particularly disorderly house of which, called the Hotel d'Athènes, a fight was in progress, terminating in a Greek firing with a revolver at another, and severely wounding him in the head. The cause of the discussion is somewhat shrouded in mystery, but there is no doubt that it is a case "chercher la femme," having due regard to the locality. The man was arrested and conveyed to the comsol, and his victim taken in an ambulance to the hospital, where, on enquiry, I learn he is progressing favourably.

GYMKHANA.

Yesterday afternoon, close to the tennis ground, there was held a Gymkhana, which, though in itself successful, was very sparsely attended owing to the fact of its taking place being so little known. It is said that several will be held this summer, at regular intervals.

NOTES FROM SUEZ.

RUSSIAN HOSPITAL SHIP.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Suez, Monday.
The British India steamer "Jelunga," from Shanghai, chartered by the Russian Government as a hospital ship, arrived at Suez at 5 o'clock this morning, and entered the Canal at 11 a.m. bound to Sebastopol. The "Jelunga" had on board 1,019 naval officers and men from the destroyed battleships and cruisers in Port Arthur, all of whom took an active part in the defence of the fortresses and were subsequently taken prisoners and released on "parole." Several of the men were in a pitiful state, having their legs, arms, and eyes missing. Amongst the prisoners there were eight ladies who had acted as nurses at Port Arthur during the siege.

COAL FOR RODJESTVENSKY.

The Hamburg-America liners "Batavia" and "Badami," chartered by the Russian Government, returned to Suez and entered the Canal last Saturday evening and this day respectively, in ballast, after having delivered their cargo of coal to Admiral Rodjestvensky's squadron near Madagascar.

FRENCH MISSION STARTING.

To-morrow morning a French mission, consisting of one naval and one military officer and five other Frenchmen, accompanied by a Syrian doctor and escorted by about 60 Bedouins, with about 40 camels laden with water and provisions, will start from Moses' Wells en route to Masek, in the Persian Gulf. The mission will travel the whole way by camel, and its objects are said to be scientific and geographical.

CAIRO WATER SUPPLY.

It will be interesting to Cairo residents to learn that in a fortnight's time all possibility of shortage of water-supply will be removed as by that time the Water Company will have started pumping water from the artesian wells at Rod-el-Farag, which will enable them to pump an extra 25,000 cubic metres of water per day, should the necessity arise. This method of water supply will be continued for two years, when, if it is found satisfactory, the system will be entirely adopted, and the present system done away with. But in the meantime should the amount pumped from the artesian wells prove insufficient they will be able to pump from the plant at present in use, and thus prevent any shortage.

Regarding the insufficient supply, of which we have of late received complaints, we learn that the maximum amount which the company is compelled to pump per day, according to the contract with the Government, is 30,000 cubic metres, whereas they have pumped as much as 75,000 cubic metres in one day. It is also interesting to note that they have pumped 68,101,940 litres of water so far this year, whilst during the corresponding period last year they only pumped 44,835,880 litres, thus making an increase of 23,266,060 litres.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

It is stated that the Sultan intends to confer the rank of "Movshir" on the "Regent" and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The native Press is speculating a good deal on the reasons which led to the selection of Bontour Pasha Ghali to accompany the Khedive to Europe. It is said that he went to Constantinople in order to settle the question of the Coptic Convent at Jerusalem. Another theory is that he is to be Prime Minister on the retirement of Meshapha Pasha Pashy, and so he has gone to England to make himself acquainted with the King.

The Earl of Galloway, who is to be chairman of the new North Egypt Land Company, is the eleventh holder of the title, and is concerned in no small amount of land nearer home, the death of his brother four years ago having made him not only an Earl but the owner of eighty thousand acres. Lord Galloway was known until that event occurred as Captain Randolph Stewart, of the Black Watch, a veteran of the Crimea and of the Mutiny, and in October next he will be entering upon his seventieth year. Descended from the Stewarts of whom the Kings of Scotland and of England were a branch, Lord Galloway owes his title to that Sir Alexander Stewart who, in 1607, was created Lord of Galloway, and advanced to an earldom by James the Sixth in 1633.

H. E. Mokhammad Dawla Mirza Mahmood Khan arrived at Alexandria yesterday evening from Cairo. His Excellency is leaving for Europe in order to be in attendance on the Shah of Persia during his Majesty's visit to Europe.

H. H. the Khedive has conferred the grade of Mirman (pasha) on Amin Pasha and Chamri, notables of Zagnag.

Lieut.-Gen. F. G. Slade is on promotion to retain his appointment as Inspector-General of Royal Garrison Artillery.

Sir Wm. Willcocks' journey to Constantinople is said to be connected with his project for the irrigation of Mesopotamia.

Dr. Ruffer, Director of the Quarantine Service, will leave for England on the 15th of next month.

Contrary to former announcements, Mahmood Pasha Sidky, Governor of Alexandria, will leave for Europe on June 17, and will be absent from Egypt for 24 months.

El Miral Matchett Bey, Commanding Cairo District, and El Bimbashi Clayton, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, who have been in Alexandria on duty, returned to Cairo on Sunday.

Three months' leave has been accorded to Saghoadghasi V. Jarvis, Inspector of Police, Cairo, from June 22.

The following visitors are staying at the Best River Hotel, Ramleh: Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Hornblower, Judge and Mrs. J. H. Marshall, the Misses Marshall, Mr. J. H. Farrar and courier, the Misses Farrar, Mr. and Mrs. G. Helme and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Miller and family, Mr. W. S. Balls, Mr. P. S. Walton, Mr. Temple, Mr. Edgeworth, Miss Lewis Stewart, Miss L. Waldmer, Dr. and Mrs. Amb. G. Ball, Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Rotherham, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernadino, Miss A. Ardener, Miss H. Cay, Miss R. Mason.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play, to state that we cannot—without certain limitations—read these communications.

A. S. C. AND PIGEON SHOOTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.
Sir,—I was delighted to see the noble protest of your correspondent in to-day's "Gazette" against the scheme of having pigeon shooting at the Alexandria Sporting Club. The latest London papers announce that this wicked and cruel so-called "sport" has been expelled from Hurlingham. Every genuine sportsman will rejoice at the decision of the Hurlingham Club to cease pigeon shooting from the list of "sports" practised at the club. It would be difficult to advance a single argument in favour of its continuance, save that of ancient usage, from which standpoint its claims are equalled, if not surpassed, by those of cock-fighting or bear-baiting. Even in its least objectionable form, pigeon-shooting falls far below the modern standard of sport, in the lack of a fair chance of escape for the quarry. In its lower, low-and-cruel aspects, it lends itself to abominable cruelties, inflicted upon the birds in order to effect their flight when they rise from the trap. The value of Hurlingham's decision lies not only in its immediate effect, but in the promise which it holds out that either by force of example or by actual legislation the "sport" may be abolished altogether throughout England, and a blot which disfigures our sporting annals be thus for ever removed. Let the