LOCAL AND GENERAL.

[illegible] Benevolent Society.—The Khedive [illegible] the Orthodox Coptic Benevolent [illegible] of L.E. 20.

[illegible] Consular Court.—Judge [illegible] has arrived in Cairo on [illegible] at the Continental [illegible]

[illegible] Tonkin.—Amiral Latouche [illegible] arrived at Port Said on Saturday [illegible] troops for Haiphong, Cochin [illegible]

[illegible] which occupies about [illegible] Sharia Kasr el Nil, has been bought by the Compagnie Immobiliere [illegible]

Prince Fredrick.—The Greek Benevolent Society [illegible] Orphans at the Zizinia Theatre, Alexandria, took place on Saturday evening [illegible] very largely attended.

[illegible] will be given by the Rev. J. B. [illegible] the International Young Men's [illegible] Association, New York, at 6.30 p.m. [illegible] at the Native Evangelical American [illegible] Church.

[illegible] Theatre.—We hear [illegible] performance of "The Prince of [illegible] may be given in the near future as [illegible] only the company will [illegible] to Alexandria soon.

[illegible] Canal.—On the 15th and 16th inst. [illegible] passed through the Canal 24 were [illegible] 3 Austrian, 3 German, 1 French, 1 Spanish, 1 Italian. The receipts for the two days were Frs. [illegible], the total received in [illegible] from the 1st inst. being Frs. 6,879,986.35.

[illegible] Fete Committee.—The committee is negotiating with Signor Brunian Bonincontri for three performances at Cairo. The children's [illegible] which was to have been given by the committee, will not take place.

[illegible] Kiosk.—We hear that [illegible] the Native Hospital [illegible] will be published next [illegible]

Alexandria Municipality.—In addition to the matters which are announced in the official programme of the proceedings at to-morrow's meeting of the Commission, a proposal will be made to appoint Dr. Dema as assistant to the Sanitary Inspector and Dr. [illegible] as Medicin des Abords.

The Mahmudieh Lake.—The statement made by a Cairo newspaper, to the effect that the Lake Mahmudieh has had been transferred to the Cairo Tramway Company, is denied in Alexandria. The rumour arises from negotiations which the Tramway Company have entered into for furnishing the motive power on the transformation of the line to electric traction.

Sanitary Duty.—The Minister of the Interior has authorized Mr. Salama Roberto Gnecchi and Mr. Theodore S. Stavropulo, physicians, Mr. Zakaria Aouadi, Mr. Louis Nader, Mr. Paolo Levi, Mr. Jean Yoanim, and Miss Vera Lock, pharmacists, and Miss Alexandra Antoine and Miss Magdolna Hovanian, midwives, to follow their profession in Egypt.

Amateur Theatricals.—Last Saturday evening the Greek play "Galatea" was successfully performed by amateurs at the Cercle International du Canal de Suez, Port Tewfik, in aid of the Greek poor. The large club room, brilliantly illuminated by electricity and decorated with flags, was crowded with people of all nationalities, who heartily applauded the play. Mr. Geo. Mavro, as Pygmalion, King of Cyprus, Miss C. Papacosta, as Galatea, Mr. C. Antippa, as Beauties, and Mr. Nicoradis, as Eunulus, are to be congratulated on the success of the performance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[illegible] not held himself responsible for the responsible opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit within certain necessary limits—free discussion.

MR. ALDERSON'S RESIGNATION.

To the Editor of the Egyptian Gazette

Dear Sir,—My answer to the letter of the "Lecataires," in your issue of to-day, is,—read paragraph in 2nd column page 3 of your issue of February 10 (Friday).

Geo. B. Alderson.

Alexandria, February 20.

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THE FINANCES OF EGYPT.

ACCOUNTS FOR 1904.

The revenue returns for the year 1904 show the following results :—

REVENUE:		
Receipts	L.E.	13,690,560
Taken from the General Reserve Fund for relief of taxation	"	215,592
	L.E.	13,906,152
EXPENDITURE:		
Expenditure	L.E.	10,588,473
Paying off Guaranteed Debt	"	71,564
Economies from the conversion of the Privileged Debt paid into the Economies Fund		264,037
Portion of General Reserve Fund in the surplus receipts	"	1,775,258
	L.E.	12,700,332
Surplus	"	1,205,820

At the 31st December, 1904, the amount of the Conversion Economies Fund was L.E. 6,031,345.

The General Reserve Fund shows a surplus of L.E. 3,185,094 ; deducting the credits opened out of this fund and not used to December 31, amounting to L.E. 485,802, the available surplus is L.E. 2,719,292.

The surplus of the Special Reserve Fund is L.E. 2,617,702 ; deducting the credits not used to December 31, 1904, which amount to L.E. 755,812, the available surplus is L.E. 1,861,890.

During the year 1904, the Debt was paid off to the extent of £911,580.

THE KHEDIVE.

The Khedive spent Sunday on his estates at Mostorud. Yesterday his Highness was at Koubbeh Palace.

The Khedivah had the Duchess and the two Princesses to lunch at Koubbeh yesterday.

H. H. the Khedive has recently received at Abdeen Palace M. Gay Lussac, French Controller of the Daira Saniehs, and Sir William Willcocks, also Count G. de Zogheb, Portuguese Diplomatic Agent, who presented to the Khedive the Marquis de Jacomo, Secretary to the Portuguese Legation at London, and M. de Nagueiro Pinto, Secretary to the Legation at Rome.

H. H. Ghoss has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Osmanieh on Prince Kemaliedin Pasha, and the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Medjidieh on Prince Hodar Chemassy Bey and Prince Youssef Kemal Bey.

THE PILGRIMAGE.

On Thursday morning next, the mahmourieh staff at Tor leaves Cairo for Suez. At 8 p.m. on the same day 180 officers, N. C. O.'s and men leave for Suez with the quarantine staff. All will embark for Tor on Friday morning.

The Quarantine Board has declared the Moses pilgrimage free from epidemic.

THE PLAGUE.

Yesterday's bulletin records a death in hospital and a recovery at Suez. A case of plague exist in Egypt at present.

No deaths are reported from Toukh to-day.

FREEMASONRY IN EGYPT.

Owing to the rapid spread of Freemasonry in Egypt, and the ever-increasing demand for English speaking lodges, several well-known brethren have petitioned the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Egypt, Idris Bey Ragheb, to grant them a charter or warrant for the formation of a new lodge working in the English language.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, after due deliberation, has granted the prayer of the petition for these brethren to act as a regularly constituted lodge, and for that purpose there will be a meeting of Freemasons at the Masonic Hall, Boulac road, Cairo, on Monday, 27th inst., at 7.30 p.m. for 8 o'clock p.m. precisely, when the new lodge, called the "Rising Sun" Lodge of Cairo No. 91, will be duly consecrated, being followed immediately after by the installation of the W. M. designate, Wor. Bro. W. J. King, P.M.

All well wishers of the craft being Master Masons are cordially invited to attend this important and inspiring function, whereby still another English-speaking lodge will be added to the long list of those already existing and working under the banner of the National Grand Lodge of Egypt.

W. Bro. King will be assisted during his year of office as Worshipful Master by the following brethren Bros. A. T. Roche, S.W., and A. G. Harris, J. W., Bros. Brewster Bey and W. J. Wright, Wor. Bros. Smithard, Phillips, Plunkett, Collins, McIntosh, Ahmed Bey Nasr, Garofalo, and Beale, also Very Wor. Bro. Rev. P.E.N. Nourmont Lee, P.G. Chaplain, Chaplain to H.M.'s Forces.

Wor. Bro. Beale has been commanded to carry out the consecration and installation ceremonies.

Nearly the whole of the founders have had the high honor of already having passed through the chair of the Worshipful Master in different lodges.

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OUR ROYAL VISITORS.

DATE OF DEPARTURE.

T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, with the Princesses, had tea at the Hotel du Nil last Friday. On Sunday they took tea at the Ghizeh Zoological Gardens, and afterwards went out by special tram to the Pyramids. Their Royal Highnesses and party (numbering 11) dined at Mena House and visited the Pyramids by moonlight. They returned to Cairo at 10 p.m.

On Monday the Duke and Duchess of Connaught lunched at Koubbeh Palace with the Khedive and Khedivah. To-night, a dinner in their honor will be given at Koubbeh Palace to which numerous members of the Khedivial family, De Martino Pasha and Mme de Martino, and some of the principal Palace functionaries are invited.

Last night they were the guests at dinner of Major-General and Mrs. Slade, and lunched to-day at the Citadel.

The departure of their Royal Highnesses for Alexandria is fixed for Monday next. They will leave for Cyprus on March 1.

THE DISCOVERY AT LUXOR.

The discovery made last week by Mr. Theodore M. Davis, in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, of the tomb of the daughter of Amenhotep III. and the father and mother of his wife, Queen Thy, is of the greatest importance. The mummies of the father and mother had been unwrapped and searched for jewels and gold in ancient times—with this exception, nothing had been disturbed.

The tomb was crowded with coffins covered with gold-leaf, chairs carved and gilded, alabaster canopic jars, ushabtis and religious symbols of the finest quality. There was also a complete chariot with wheels, pole and neck-yoke, the body of the chariot being coveredwith gold leaf.

The collection is the most beautiful and extensive ever found.

THE RAILWAY REPORT.

A correspondent writes:—As an Alexandrian and a business man I was surprised to read in the columns of the "Egyptian Gazette" that the authorities at Cairo had in their wisdom decided to expurgate the report of the Railway Commission, and only to issue "portions" to the public. In Alexandria many prominent commercial men were invited to express their views on different subjects connected with the management of the Egyptian State Railways to the members of the Commission, and it is only fair to them to publish any decisions arrived at. The report might be expected to show who or what was responsible for the block of traffic at Gabbari, which lasted so many months and caused such a great deal of loss and inconvenience, not only to the commercial community at Alexandria, but to the whole of Egypt. It will not inspire confidence if portions only of the report are published. Such tactics will increase and not allay the suspicions, or rather, I may say, certitude of the public as to there being something rotten in the state of the Railway, Administration. Alexandria is the greatest sufferer by the inefficiency of the railways and it is absurd that the report should be presented in a garbled form to save the susceptibilities of a few officials, whose competence may be called in question.

THE MACAO GARRISON.

Suez, Monday.

The British India steamer "Matiana" (Capt. Faussett), which entered the Canal yesterday evening, had on board 189 Portuguese officers and men of the Macao garrison on their way to Lisbon, where the steamer will specially call.

Captain Ignaciio Laforte, R.N., who was the commanding officer of the relief garrison for Macao on board the transport "San Thome," which was wrecked in the Red Sea a few months ago, is again the commanding officer of the homeward-bound garrison.

ABBAS HELMY THEATRE.

MASSENET'S *MANON*.

This opera was produced for the second time during this season last evening, and a large and fashionable audience listened with rapt attention and delight to Signora Bellincioni's magnificent interpretation of the title-role. It would indeed be difficult to discover a more perfect study of the character than that which is presented by this great artiste,—a picture finished even to the most minute detail, and yet executed with that ease which has undoubtedly been the key to her world-wide and well-merited success. In the third act Signora Bellincioni absolutely enthralled her audience and received frantic applause, which, naturally, was lavishly bestowed upon her throughout the representation. Signor Tomasini was in excellent voice and made an admirable Cav. di Grieux, his performance contributing largely to the general success of the evening. Both Signori Borrione and Badini were good in their respective rôles, and the minor parts were well sustained. Among the large number of Alexandria society leaders present last evening, we noticed H. E. the Governor, Brigadier-General Bullock, C. B., Mr. E. B. Gould, I. S. O., H.B.M.'s Consul-General, and Mrs. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Chataway, etc.

For Wednesday evening *Mignon*, by Thomas, is announced, with both Signora Gemma Bellincioni and Signora Isabella Svicher in the cast, and we learn that even at this early hour a large portion of the theatre has already been reserved. It is rarely given to an operatic audience to hear two such stars" of the first magnitude.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt was held at the offices of the bank yesterday afternoon, when the following report of the directors on the working of the bank during the past year was submitted and approved :

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1904, established in accordance with Article 40 of the statutes, amount to £157,859. 9. 11. From this amount there has to be deducted : (*a*) The service of the bonds outstanding, £27,795. 10.7 ; (*b*) the provision for the reserve fund, £12,916. 8. 10, which is a total of £40,711.19. 5, leaving £117,147. 10. 6. And there has to be further deducted : (*c*) dividend on £625,000 preferred shares, £24,596. 3. 7 ; (*d*) 5% to the National Bank of Egypt, £5,866. 15. 10, which is a total of £30,462. 19. 5, leaving £86,664.11.1, which is available for distribution of dividend on ordinary and deferred shares.

The ordinary shares have to receive in the first instance dividend at the rate of 5% per annum (£62,000.0.0). The balance of £24,684.11.1 is available to the extent of one half, or £12,342. 5. 6, for further dividend on the ordinary shares, and to the extent of one half, or £12,342. 5. 6, for dividend on the deferred shares.

Ordinary Shares. The amounts available for dividend on these shares for the year are as follows : Balance from 1903, £186.6.3. Per dividend at the rate of 5 % per annum, £62,000.0.0. Further amount available, £12,342.5.6. Total £74,530.11.9.

The directors propose a dividend at the rate of 6 % per annum for the year 1904 on the ordinary shares amounting to £74,400.0.0, and to carry forward the balance of £130.11.9.

Deferred Shares. The amount available for dividend on these shares is £12,342.5.6.

The directors propose a dividend at the rate of £6.3.0 per share for the year 1904, amounting to £12,300.0.0, and to carry forward the balance of £42.5.6.

As pointed out in last year's report, only the interest actually recovered during any financial year can be taken into account in making up the balance sheet. Accordingly only the interest actually collected, viz., £248,806.6.0, has been carried to the credit of profit and loss account for 1904, whereas the interest accrued amounted to £70,594.12.3 in addition to this amount.

At the end of 1904, the overdue loans for the year amounted to £21,220 and the overdue interest to £7,209. Of these two items, £13,730, and £4,530 have been collected respectively since the closing of the accounts for 1904.

The directors are glad to be able to report that the work of the bank has steadily progressed throughout the year. The total number of loans put out in 1904 was 112,103 and the total number outstanding on the 31st December, 1904, was 134,207, amounting to over £4,000,000, as against 78,911, amounting to a little over 2,000,000, on the 31st December, 1903.

The following statistics of loans outstanding on the 31st December, 1904, may be of interest:

"A".

Loans of P.T. 50 to L.E. 1.			1,060	
Above L.E. 1 to	"	5.	6,776	
" " 5 to	"	20.	9,662	17,498

"B".

Loans from L.E. 20 to L.E. 50.			96,234	
Above	" 50 to	" 100.	13,207	
"	" 100 to	" 150.	3,934	
"	" 150 to	" 500.	3,334	116,709
				134,207

The average of the small loans is L.E. 6.1 and the average of the larger loans L.E. 33.3. During January of this year the balance of the 3½ % bonds, amounting to £625,000, has been placed about £65,000 part of the unissued preferred shares have been sold. The constantly increasing applications for loans make an extension of the powers of the bank for providing capital necessary, and accordingly negotiations have been entered into with the Government, the result of which will be communicated to the shareholders in due course.

The Board wish to record their appreciation of the services of the whole staff at the head-quarters of the bank and of the agents in the provinces.

BULLETIN DE LA BOURSE

(Aujourd'hui à midi et demie)

Le marché continue à hausser, mais le mouvement se ralentit.

L'unique valeur qui se soit échangée en matin en grande quantité, par milliers, est l'Egyptian Investment. De 2 au début, le prix a touché 2 3/8 pour clôturer à 2 1/4 vendeurs.

En hausse également la Banque Nationale à 28 1/4 acheteurs. Le cours de 28 1/2 a même été atteint dans la matinée. Londres nous est venue à 28 3/4.

L'Agricole reprend à 11 13/16, la Béhéra à 52 3/8, la Brasserie des Pyramides à 139 et la Ramleh Railway à 81/16.

La Daira atteint le prix de 25 3/16.

Par contre la réaction s'affirme en Banque d'Athènes à 122 1/4, en Nungovich à 10 9/16, en Anglo-American Nile à 5 13/16, et en Eaux d'Alexandrie à 16 11/16.

L'ensemble du marché est bon.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

Prince Aziz Bey Hassan has been promoted to the rank of Lewa, which confers the title of Pasha.

A native contemporary states that his Highness will present the Khedive with a military report on his recent trip to the Far East.

Lord and Lady Cromer passed Deyrout last night on their way down the river.

Lady Curzon of Kedleston is returning to India by the P. and O. S.S. "Arabia," which is due at Port Said this afternoon. Sir William and Lady Dick-Cunyngham, Sir William Dalby, and the Hon. A. Hill Trevor are other passengers on the "Arabia."

H. E. Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha, Imperial Ottoman High Commissioner, will give two grand dinners on the 22nd and 23rd of the month, at which the members of the Diplomatic Body, the Ministers, and the principal native notables and high functionaries will be present.

H. E. the Governor of Alexandria left for Cairo by the midday train.

We regret to state that our excellent confrère, Dr. Haicalia Pasha, of the "Phare d'Alexandrie," is making but slow progress towards recovery and is still very feeble.

The Pasha's son-in-law, Captain Peirakos, of the Hellenic Royal Artillery, arrived from Athens on Saturday.

Lieut.-Col. G. D. Hunter, D.S.O., Royal Army Medical Corps, having reported his arrival in Egypt from England, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Miralai, and been posted to the Medical Corps.

Captain and Mrs. Borton have returned to Alexandria from Cairo, where they have been for the last few months. Captain Borton's appointment to the Post Office Administration has not yet been officially announced.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cornish and family desire to thank all those who have offered them such kind expressions of sympathy in their recent bereavement, and to assure them of their grateful appreciation.

Mr. P. W. Machell returned to Cairo from an inspecting trip to Upper Egypt yesterday.

Dr. A. Granville has been appointed assistant inspector to the Sanitary Department at an annual salary of L.E. 360.

The engagement is announced of Miss Privat, daughter of the well-known French advocate at Cairo, to Comte de Cordon, nephew of the Marquis of Monigies.

The death is announced of M. Analijin, member of the administrative council of the Suez Canal, which occurred at Paris last week.

The following passengers left Cairo yesterday by the P.S. "Amenartas" for the Nile trip :—Mrs. and Miss Phillips, Miss Poole, Mrs. Plimmer, Baroness Secherau, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hulshof Pol, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. W. Aders, Dr. Carl Brandel, Consul P. W. and Mrs. Nordenhola, Mr. P. Piccardo, Mr. C. Finlay, Sir Algernon Coote, Bart., Lady Coote, Miss Trotter, Consul and Mrs. Litten, Rathvon and Mrs. Taussig, Mr. E. and Miss Clark, Mr. McGavigan, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Barton, Mr. H. C. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Lee, Mrs. Hogg, Mrs. Rosa V. Fatour.

The following passengers left Assiout to-day by the P. S. "Amasis" : Mr. and Mrs. L. von Kalckreuth, Mrs. M. Bunton, Miss E. Kerin, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Male, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. K. Furnee, Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Schriever, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schoen, Mr. and Mrs. G. and Miss Schrempp, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. A. Conrad, Mr. Ferd. Knobloch, Mr. Fritz Chwalla, Mr. Agosti, Consul Leopold Strube, Mr. H. Sutermeister, Mr. N. N. Wadia.

SPORT AND PLAY.

FOOTBALL.

VICTORIA COLLEGE v. C. Co. R. BERKS.

A return match was played on Saturday on the College ground and a pleasant game resulted in a win for the regiment by 3 goals to 2. For the College, Psaltis and Nimr played particularly well. The College team was : F. Saba ; A. Mustard, A. G. Psaltis ; S. Cheeri, A. G. Lias, A. Nahas ; T. Cheeri, A. E. Aubrey, A. Morrison, F. G. Lowick, A. Nimr.

A return match has been arranged between the St. Andrew Football Club and Departmental Corps, Berkshire Regiment, to take place on Saturday next, on Moharrem Bey common, at 3 p.m.

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