

"Siam Observer"
Oldest Established
Daily Newspaper
in Siam.
Has the Largest
Circulation.
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English Edition
Tos. 50 per annum.
Siamese Edition
Tos. 25 per annum.

The Siam Observer.

FIRST DAILY TO BE PUBLISHED IN SIAM.

"Siam Observer"
STATIONERY STORE
STOCKS
Account Books,
Office Requisites
and
Stationery of
Every Description.

VOL. 43. NO. 97

BANGKOK FRIDAY APRIL 27, 1917.

PRICE 25 SATANGS

STEAMER SAILINGS.

K. P. M.
JAVA-SIAM LINE
OF THE
Royal Packet S. N. Co.
(KONINKLIJKE PAKETVAART
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for all Netherlands Indian and Austral-
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For rates of freight and passage
please apply to:

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**British India Steam
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The s.s. "Mata Hari" is expected
to arrive on Thursday morning 26th
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Apply:—
The Bombay Burmah Trading
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SINGAPORE-JAVA-AUSTRALIA
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CALLING AT
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For freight, passage, full particulars
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THE ARRACAN COMPANY, LTD.
AGENTS

HARP HENG LONG

We beg to inform the Public that
we have just opened our shop in
Jawarat Road, Nos. 104-109. We
have received a large stock of Iron
and Brassware, Paint and Oils, &c., &c.
House and Boat Builders and Con-
tractors are invited to pay us a visit.
Our prices are very moderate.

**Lloyd de France
Insurance Co., Ltd.**

Incorporated in France.

ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT
THE USUAL

**FIRE RISKS, MARINE
INSURANCE,
AND
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For detailed particulars apply

Malcolm Beranger.

AGENTS

WHITEAWAY LAIDLAW & CO., LTD.



**Cool Dress Materials
for the Hot Weather.**

"GRAFTON" VOILES.

We hold a well assorted stock of
these well known voiles. A splendid
range of the newest designs and col-
ourings is always open for your inspec-
tion. Excellent in every way for Ladies
and Children's frocks. Width 38 inches.
Price Tcs. 1-50 per yard.

VOILE FLOUNCINGS.

The popular white voile Flouncings,
in various designs. All new stock,
recently arrived from Europe. Satis-
faction assured. Width 45 inches.
Prices Tcs. 2-95 & 4-95 p. yard

EMBROIDERED SWISS
MUSLINS.

All white Swiss Muslins, beautifully
embroidered, in the latest designs.
Always has a dainty and cool appear-
ance. Large assortment always to be
seen. Width 30 inches.

Prices: Tcs. 0-65, 0-75, 0-95,
1-25, 1-50, 1-75, 2-25 and 3-50
per yard.

Peninsular and Oriental

Steam Navigation Company.

Full particulars as to

**Sailing Dates,
Passage Rates,
Accommodation
&c., &c.**

May be had on application.

Wireless Telegraphy Fitted on all Steamers.

All passengers holding through tickets will be met on arrival at Singapore by
the Company's launch which will take over heavy baggage for shipment to the
oncarrying vessel.

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via Suez, returning via America, or vice versa.

THE BORNEO COMPANY, LTD.

Agents.

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**Sailing Dates,
Passage Rates,
Accommodation
&c., &c.**

May be had on application.

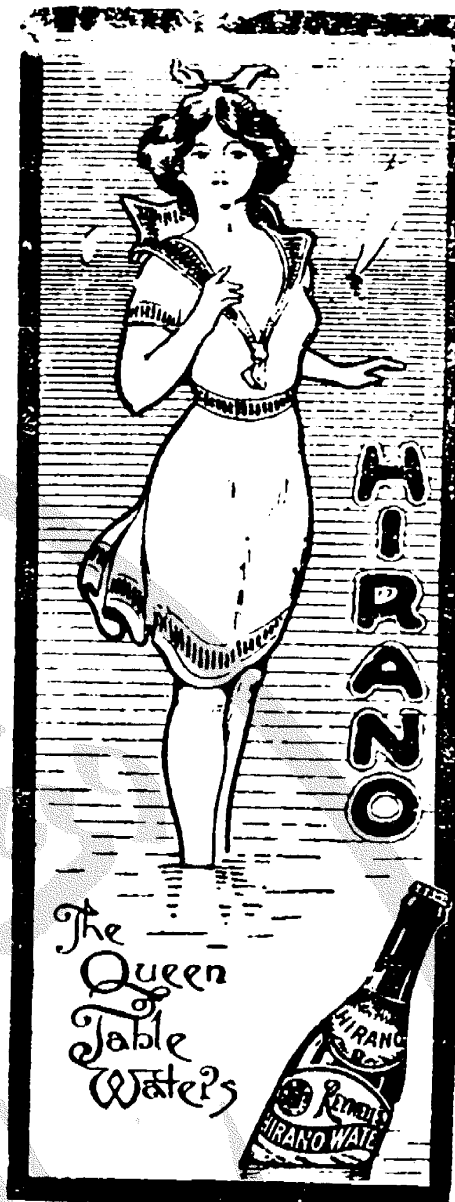
Round the World Tickets issued in either direction.

THE BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

Agents.

**Reynells
Hirano
Water**

The
Finest
Mineral
Water
in
the
East.



Excellent
alone
or with
Wine or
Spirits

Per case of 48 qts

Tcls. 9-00

Per case of 96 qts

Tcls. 12-00

CELESTIN'S VICHY WATER

in cases of 50 qts, 50 pints, 100 splits.

Tcs. 37-50 28-00 34-00

WELCH'S GRAPE JUICE

From choicest concord Grapes

Wholesome—Delicious—Satisfying

AGENTS
FOR
SIAM

Oriental Store

AGENTS
FOR
SIAM

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD.

Bangkok-Europe Line

THE SIAM STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

West coast Mail Service.

For Koh Lak, Chumpon, Taku, Langsuen, Bandon, Lucon, Singora,
Patani, Panarai, Telupin, Bangnara, Takbai, Kolantan, Becha, Semerak,
Bicut, Tringganu, Kretay and Singapore.

Departures from Bangkok

s.s. "Prachatiptok"	...	...	28. 4. 17.
s.s. "Asdang"	...	...	5. 5. 17.
s.s. "Boribat"	...	...	12. 5. 17.
s.s. "Prachatiptok"	...	...	19. 5. 17.

East Coast Mail Service

For Sriracha, Kohsichang, Koh Phai, Koh Pra, Rayong, Koh Samit,
Chantaboon, Ban Yao, Lem Ngob, Krat & Koh Kong.

Departures from Bangkok

s.s. "Chutatchul", Wednesday noon: not calling at Koh Phai & Krat.
s.s. "Krat", Saturday " " " " Kohsichang & Koh Kong.

All the steamers are fitted throughout with Electric Light and have excel-
lent Accommodation for First Class Passengers.

For Freight, Passage and Particulars apply to

THE EAST ASIATIC COMPANY, Ltd.
Managing Agents.

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID UP CAPITAL ... \$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS.
STERLING £1,500,000 @ 2/- \$15,000,000
SILVER ... 18,500,000
33,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$15,000,000

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HONGKONG.
CHIEF MANAGER.
N. J. STABB.

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Bangkok Johore Penang
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Colonbo Malacca Singapore
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INTEREST Allowed on current accounts at the rate of 1 per cent per annum on the daily balances.

FIXED DEPOSITS are received on terms which can be ascertained on application.

Letters of credit issued available in the Principal Cities of the world.

Drafts granted. Bills negotiated or sent for collection and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Office Hours - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays - 9 " " 12 noon
E. W. TOWNEND,
Agent.

Chartered Bank

OF
INDIA AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND ... £1,300,000
FURTHER LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS ... £1,200,000

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Sir Henry S. Cunningham, K. C. I. E.
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Current Accounts are opened and interest allowed at 1 per cent. per annum on the daily balances.
Deposits are received for fixed periods at rates which can be ascertained on application.

G. E. ALLEN, Agent.

Bangkok, July 1, 1909.

BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE

Societe Anonyme au Capital de 48,000,000 de Francs.

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M. Edgard Stern, M. R. de Tregomain
M. Stanislas Simon

Managing Director—M. Stanislas Simon
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The Union of London & Smiths Bank, Ltd.
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

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J. DEMAY, Acting Manager.

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Canton ... Saigon
Haiphong ... Shanghai
Hankow ... Singapore
Hanoi ... Papeete
Hongkong ... Tientsin
Noumea ... Tourane
Montevideo ... Djibouti
Peking ...

BOWEL COMPLAINT IN CHILDREN.

During the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any unnatural looseness of the bowels is noticed Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy should be given. For sale by the British Dispensary.

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The Siam Commercial Bank Ltd.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

PAID UP CAPITAL
TICALS 3,300,000

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E. Florio, (Chairman), Phra Boribon
Phya Boribon Raja, Kosakorn
Phya Jalyos Sombati, Luang Rit
W. Brehmer, Esq., Narongron,
A. Willeke, Esq.,

London Bankers—Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft, Swiss Bankverein.
The Institution buys and sells, and collects Bills of Exchange on Europe, India, and China and transacts every description of Exchange and Banking business.

Current Account Deposits at 1% on daily balances.

Rates of Interest allowed on the fixed deposits may be ascertained on application.

Safe-Deposit Lockers let to the public at monthly rental.

Apply for particulars.

Office hours ... 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays ... 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

A. WILLEKE,
Actg. Manager,

Bangkok, March 27, 1909.

KWONG ON CHEONG

HIGH CLASS TAILOR,
Opposite Oriental Avenue on the NEW ROAD.

Executes all kinds of Tailoring in the latest fashions.
Send Post Card, and he will wait on you personally

TIDE TABLE.

DEPTH OF WATER ON THE BANGKOK BAR FOR APRIL 1917.

April	A.M.	
	H. W.	Ft. & in.
1	6 00	13 3
2	2 00	13 6
3	3 00	14 0
4	4 00	14 1
5	4 00	14 6
6	4 30	14 6
7	4 30	14 4
8	5 00	14 3
9	5 00	14 0
10	5 30	14 0
11	6 00	13 10
12	6 00	13 10
13	6 30	13 9
14	6 30	13 6
15	1 00	13 10
16	1 00	14 4
17	2 00	14 4
18	2 20	14 4
19	3 00	14 4
20	3 30	14 0
21	4 00	13 10
22	4 30	13 6
23	5 00	13 2
24	5 30	13 0
25	5 30	12 10
26	5 30	12 10
27	6 00	12 10
28	6 00	12 10
29	6 00	12 6
30	1 00	14 0
31	...	...

April	P.M.	
	H. W.	Ft. & in.
1	11 0	12 9
2	12 0	12 6
3	12 0	12 3
4	2 00	11 2
5	2 00	12 6
6	3 30	12 9
7	4 30	13 8
8	5 00	14 6
9	6 00	15 0
10	7 00	15 0
11	8 00	15 2
12	8 30	15 0
13	9 00	14 7
14	10 00	14 0
15	...	...
16	...	...
17	...	...
18	2 00	11 6
19	2 30	12 0
20	4 00	13 0
21	5 00	14 0
22	6 00	14 10
23	7 00	15 0
24	7 30	15 0
25	8 30	15 0
26	9 00	14 10
27	10 00	14 5
28	11 00	14 3
29	...	...
30	...	...
31	...	...

PHASES OF THE MOON.

April 25th O Full Moon 5 h 31 m p.m.
" 15th (Last Quarter) 2 h 52 m a.m.
" 21st O New Moon 8 h 43 m p.m.
" 22nd First Quarter 0 h 4 m p.m.

RELIEF FROM DYSPEPSIA.

All conditions of depressed vitality tend to disturb the processes of digestion.

Thin, weak blood affects directly and at once the great processes of nutrition. Not only is the action of the gastric and intestinal glands diminished but the muscular action of the stomach is weakened. Nothing will more promptly restore the digestive efficiency than good red blood. Without it the normal activity of the stomach is impossible.

People who complain of indigestion must improve the condition of their blood to find relief. The most active blood-builder in such cases is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They make rich red blood which quickly restores the digestive organs to their proper activity and the first result is hunger. The dyspeptic who has hated the sight and smell of food now looks forward to meal time with pleasurable anticipation. Care now in the selection and quantity of food will put the patient well on the road to health. A diet book, "What to Eat and How to Eat," will be sent free on request by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Singapore.

The British Dispensary, Bangkok, sole wholesale agents for Siam. Tics. 2.25 per bottle or Tics. 12/- per 6 bottles.

PIANO.

Wanted to buy a Second-hand Piano in good condition also a Second-hand Sewing Machine and an Electric Table Fan.

Apply:

D. FROIMAN,
138, Si Phya Road,
Next to Whiteaway Laidlaw & Co., Ltd.

HARP YOUR LONG & CO.

Facing Sampeng Old Market, Jawarat Road, No. 184 to 189.

We have just unpacked a large shipment of our well-known High Class Paints, Varnishes, Linseed Oils, Brasses, Iron-ware, and Carpenter's, Blacksmiths, Silver Smith's Tools, and various kinds of best Chinese silks always in stock.

INSPECTION INVITED. PRICES MODERATE.

Tel. No. 535.

THE Siam Observer.

THE OLDEST AND LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER IN SIAM.

Eight-Page English Edition.

Subscriptions Ticals 50 per annum or Ticals 5 per mensem for English Edition.

Ticals 25 per annum for Siamese Edition.

"Weekly Mail" (WEEKLY EDITION IN ENGLISH)

Ticals 20 per annum.

"Siam Maitri" (WEEKLY EDITION IN SIAMESE)

Ticals 12 per annum

Advertising Rates.

PER INCH.

One insertion ... Tics. 2.00
Two insertions ... " 3.25
Three " ... " 4.50
Four " ... " 5.25
Five " ... " 6.00
Six " (one week) ... " 6.75
Two weeks ... " 9.15
Three " ... " 11.55
Four " (1st month) ... " 13.00

Contract rates can be obtained on application to the manager.

Alterations and additions to advertisements on Pages 2, 3, 6 and 7, must be sent to the Office not later than 10 a.m.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS must be sent before noon.

Siam Observer
Special War Edition
Subscription Tics 4 per mensem.

The Importation of Books, Etc.

"Australian Book-lover" writes to a Sydney paper:—

"The decision of the Imperial Government to restrict the importation of unessential into Great Britain has directed attention to the extraordinary amount which is spent each year in Australia on imported luxuries. A peep at the list of luxuries shows wines, beers, spirits, silks, satins, tobacco, jewellery, perfumery, precious stones, motor cars, books, periodicals, newspapers, and others too numerous to mention.

"Most of the items on the above list might reasonably be called unessentials so far as Great Britain is concerned, but it is doubtful if a parallel could be set up between the Mother-Country and Australia.

"Take, for example, books, periodicals and newspapers. Whereas Great Britain has within her borders the most famous writers in the world, and can produce all that she requires in the matter of literature, books and periodicals may be termed unessentials as far as importation is concerned; when we come to Australia with its limited population and more limited literary production books and periodicals become essentials if we are to keep abreast of the times. Australia is on the rim of the world, and would know little of what is going on at the hub were it not for books, periodicals and newspapers. One of our troubles during this frightful war is that our distance from the heart of things has deadened our sensibility with regard to our duty; but if books be denied us, especially books that deal with the war, we shall soon lose touch with the only things that matter to-day. Again, as a recreative agency, to free our thoughts from the horrors of war and help us to forget even temporarily the sorrow that gnaws like a canker at so many hearts, books and periodicals are invaluable. But as we cannot produce we must import, and who will gain say that such literature is not an essential?

Coming nearer bedrock, however, what can be said for shutting out the educational and technical books, periodicals, and newspapers that enable our workers in many walks of life to earn a livelihood? Such productions are only possible where experience has ripened into science, and, generally speaking, Australia must either import or be stranded.

"The power of the Press has been

one of the most potent levers in the matter of recruiting both here and at Home, and but for those gallants who have recruited our army and our navy, where would Australia stand to-day? If our legislators will remove books, periodicals and newspapers from the unessential list they will earn the gratitude of thousands."

A PARENT'S DUTY.

Your boy is always getting scratched or cut or bruised. Because these wounds have healed all right is no sign they always will. Get a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and see that every injury is cared for immediately. You can get nothing better, and blood poison is too dangerous a disease to risk. For sale by the British Dispensary.

No Household

can be really happy if any of its members are ailing. Good health in a family is a boon priceless but, unfortunately, success and safety are practically impossible. Much illness is positively unnecessary and is occasioned chiefly by neglect. Much anxiety given on this account to near and dear ones, therefore, avoidable. It is of the utmost importance that a reliable remedy should always be at hand to relieve the earliest symptoms of indisposition. Beecham's Pills are an excellent household medicine safe to take and sure in their curative results. No home

Should Be Without

them. They exercise a beneficial effect upon the liver, stomach, kidneys and bowels. They give speedy relief, and, in time, they remove most of the ailments connected with these important organs. Attacks of biliousness, constipation, flatulence, headache, dyspepsia and other disorders of the digestive system are speedily dispelled by

BEECHAM'S PILLS.

There is yet another point that you should mark on the tablet of your memory. Beecham's Pills, in addition to their acknowledged value in kidney, liver, and stomach disorders, have a specially beneficial effect in such ailments as are peculiar to women, many of whom endure needless pain and ill-health through ignorance of this important fact.

Sold everywhere in boxes. Price 6d. and 1s. 6d. per box.

THE RAINFALL.

Rainfall for the 1st week in April 2460

Locality.	Rainfall recorded during the week.	Rainfall of corresponding week of last year.	Total rainfall for present year to date.	Total rainfall for last year to corresponding date.	Remarks.
	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	
Ministry of Agriculture	None	None	...	...
Dhanyaburi	No report	...	...	...
Samudprakar	...	14.5	...	14.5	
Krung Kao	7.8	5.0	7.8	5.0	
Anglong	None	None	...	...
Loburi	"	"	...	...
Jahant	"	"	...	...
Udonthani	"	"	...	...
Bianulohi	No report	34.8	...	34.8	
Xhakerngsao	None	None	...	...
Prachin	"	"	...	...
Nagor Pathom	"	"	...	...
Rajburi	"	"	...	...
Xiaaraburi	"	"	...	...
Bejngmai	10.0	30.7	10.0	30.7	
Singora	None	None	...	...
Sabarn	No report	...	...	...
Kanchanaburi	"	"	...	...

Paknam Railway Company Limited.

TIME TABLE.

PAKNAM—BANGKOK.					BANGKOK—PAKNAM				
Stations.	Train No.				Stations.	Train No.			
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Paknam	Dep. 6.30	9.30	12.45	3.45	Bangkok	Dep. 7.45	10.45	2.00	5.00
*Maha Wong	.. 6.35	9.35	12.50	3.50	Sala Deng	.. 7.52	10.52	2.07	5.07
*Ban Nang	.. 6.40	9.40	12.55	3.55	Klong Toi	.. 8.00	11.00	2.15	5.15
Chorakhe	.. 6.45	9.45	1.00	4.00	*Ban Kluei	.. 8.05	11.05	2.20	5.20
*Samrong	.. 6.50	9.50	1.05	4.05	Prakonong	.. 8.10	11.10	2.25	5.25
Bangna	.. 6.55	9.55	1.10	4.10	Bangdjak	.. 8.15	11.15	2.30	5.30
Bangdjak	.. 7.00	10.00	1.15	4.15	*Bangna	.. 8.20	11.20	2.35	5.35
*Prakonong	.. 7.05	10.05	1.20	4.20	Samrong	.. 8.25	11.25	2.40	5.40
*Ban Kluei	.. 7.10	10.10	1.25	4.25	Chorakhe	.. 8.30	11.30	2.45	5.45
Klong Toi	.. 7.15	10.15	1.30	4.30	*Ban Nang	.. 8.35	11.35	2.50	5.50
Sala Deng	.. 7.23	10.23	1.38	4.38	Greng	.. 8.40	11.40	2.55	5.55
Bangkok	Arr. 7.30	10.30	1.45	4.45	*Maha Wong	.. 8.40	11.40	2.55	5.55
					Paknam	Arr. 8.45	11.45	3.00	6.00

*Trains stop only at the request of passengers.
Trains may leave intermediate stations 5 minutes before the stated time

Sailors and the U Boats.

In an interview Sir Edward Carson expresses his "entire admiration for the splendid courage of the merchant seamen. Despite the illegal methods and acts of the enemy," he adds, "despite the daily increasing risks which they run, not a single sailor has yet flinched."

The best way of testing the truth of these words (writes a representative of the "Manchester Guardian") is to visit the Sailors' Home near London Docks. This place, the meeting-ground of every kind of sailor who goes to sea on a British ship, is the clearing-house of shipwrecked crews. In whatever sea the German submarine catches the harmless steamer and leaves the crew to sink or swim as best they can, whether in the Mediterranean, the North Sea, or the Channel—sooner or later the shipwrecked men find their way to this haven.

Like Sir Edward Carson, the officials speak of the amazing coolness and pluck of these seamen. They land in London usually quite destitute and often much shaken by their experience, but they invariably make their way without a day's delay to their home port and sign on again for a fresh ship. There is not a single known case of a man who has refused to go to sea again. They just accept the mine and submarine as ordinary risks of the sea, like the weather or an unsympathetic captain. As long as that spirit holds good, the Germans will not cripple our merchant fleet.

In a corner of the big common room at the Home is the office of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. This society is the benevolent providence of the submariners' crews, and once they come into contact with the kindly old captain in charge they are happy. If there is room in the Home—and the 150 beds are usually full—the seaman can spend his days of waiting there, but more often he is despatched at once to a port for a fresh ship. The society pays his fare and sends him across to the store in the Home, where he is provided with a new kit. This usually costs about thirty-shillings. In many cases the owners will make an allowance for kit to each member of the crew. This work has been going on steadily ever since the Germans began their war on shipping, but it has increased since the beginning of the year. In the month of January over 100 "torpedoed" men of all nationalities passed through the Home and were fitted out and put in the way of another ship.

"They know what the danger is well enough," said an official to-day, "but you rarely find a nervous man. They

are always ready to follow the call."

Since the war began the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society have spent nearly £29,000 in helping seamen and in helping the widows and orphans of victims of German submarines and mines.

This afternoon a big batch of seamen from a British steamer destroyed without warning yesterday—they had seven minutes to get clear in the boats—were passing through the office. Each man got his railway voucher, clothing, and a small sum for food on the journey. In the dark and cosy room outside a collection of sailors of all kinds—Englishmen, Scandinavians, Negroes, Arabs, Japanese—were having a merry time round the billiard tables to the tunes of a musical-box. Many had been wrecked by the Germans more than once. Within the last few months the Home has sheltered a whole Japanese crew which has been shipwrecked by submarine twice. If they talked about their trials, it was with a laugh. In the company was a jolly little ship's boy who was torpedoed in the Arabia and who went straightway to sea again and was torpedoed once more, this time 100 miles from land.

The increasing fierceness of the submarine warfare and the rising rate of killed and injured has made no difference to the gay spirit of endurance and readiness for the risks of the sea.

Japan and Her Allies.

London, April 18.—The Japanese Ambassador and the Japanese delegates who were en suite at the Allied Commercial Conference at Rome were the guests at a luncheon at the House of Commons. The Ambassador dwelt on the possibility of a War of Commerce after the war. It was high time for the Allies to take steps to protect themselves against such eventuality. He said that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was stronger than ever. It was Japan's mission to maintain peace and preserve order in the Far East. He congratulated Britain on her victories on the western front which were the herald of greater things to come.

THE FORTY YEAR TEST.

An article must have exceptional merit to survive for a period of forty years. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was first offered to the public in 1872. From a small beginning it has grown in favor and popularity until it has attained a world wide reputation. You will find nothing better for a cough or cold. Try it and you will understand why it is a favorite after a period of more than forty years. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy not only gives relief—it cures. For sale by the British Dispensary.



One of
the finest Garages

Siam Motor Works Ltd.

And repair works
in the whole of
the East.



HAND MASSAGE.

An ingeniously made massage ready for use at any moment. Come and see it at our shop.

Prices.

Tcs. 7 First quality
" 5 Second "

S. IKESAKI, Tapan Mon.

Oriental Bakery.

ORIENTAL AVENUE.

Daily supplies of white bread & rolls.

Fresh Cakes: Plain, Currant, and Assorted tea cakes.

Other cakes made to order.

BANGKOK LIBRARY.

Suriwongse Road

(Near the Lawn Tennis Club.)

Open daily, Sundays excepted.
Sept. 1st to Feb. 28th—4 to 6.30 p.m.
March 1st to Aug. 31st—4.30 to 7 p.m.

Annual Subscription Tcs. 20
Half yearly Subscription Tcs. 12.
Quarterly do " 8.

Monthly subscription Tcs. 3 for visitors only, who will be required to deposit Tcs. 5.

Subscriptions, payable in advance, date from day of payment, and may be handed in at the Library any time in the year or sent to

MRS. G. K. WRIGHT,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

"Clogs on Our Wheels."

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27.

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"Ornara", "Euryalus", "G. Apar",
"Japan", "Palatina" and "Sangola"
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on the 26.4.17 and will be landed at
Messrs. The East Asiatic Co's. wharves
at Wat Phya Krai at the risk, expense
and responsibility of Consignees.

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Bloaters
Kippers
Filleted

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Boiled Ham on cut
French Ham "
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Breakfast Bacon

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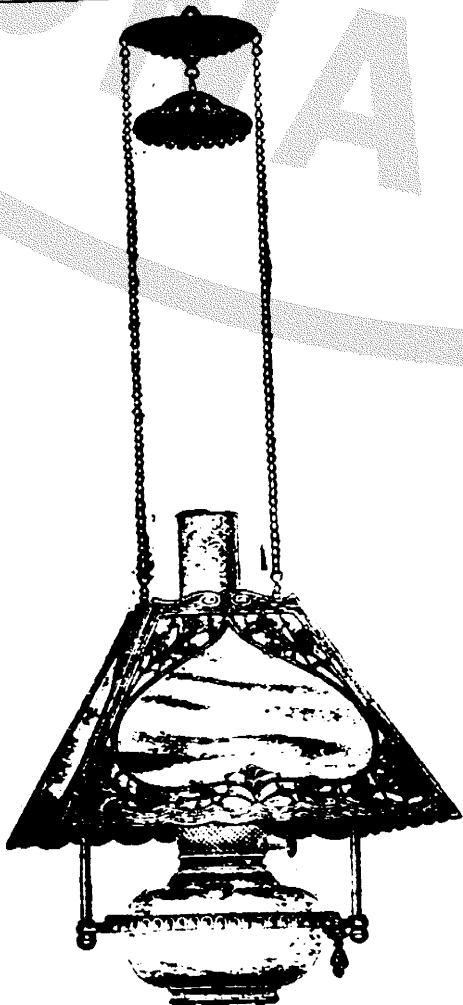
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The Siam Observer

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1917.

O TEMPORA!

A correspondent recently made a
very good suggestion, which was that
Bangkok people in general should
adopt a recognised standard of time.
It is a matter of common knowledge
that scarcely any two clocks in the
city will be found to agree, and at pre-
sent there is no fixed measure of time
to which they can be adjusted by
common consent. This is an unfortu-
nate lack, especially as it could so
easily be remedied. It is an axiom which
is commonly accepted by the commer-
cial classes at least that "time is
money." Allowing that this is so,
much money must be lost to the com-
munity here through time that is
unnecessarily wasted. Apart from this,
the absence of a time-standard is the
occasion of very great inconvenience to
business men. The copy-books seek
to impress on the juvenile mind that
"punctuality is the politeness of
princes." It is not very clear why the
last word of the proverb is used, unless
to give it a nice alliteration, since
punctuality is a rule of life which it is
but polite of all of us to follow. The
trouble is that we have so frequently
to be unpunctual without intention,
and it certainly is most provoking to
the parties concerned when appoint-
ments, whether of a business or a
social nature, are not kept reasonably
to time. But what are we to do? It
would be quite useless, we are afraid,
even to take the advice given by the
old music-hall ditty and "ask a police-
man." In the absence of a civic
clock-tower the problem presents some
little difficulty. The correspondent to
whom we referred above suggested
that business people might by mutual
arrangement set their timepieces ac-
cording to the clock in Post Office No
2. This might be done, but most of us
would prefer a happier solution of the
question. A much better way, we
think, would be to have a gun fired
precisely at noon each day, as is done
in so many other places. We under-
stand that a gun is fired at noon
from the Government Arsenal, but if
so it is too far removed from the busi-
ness quarters of the city for the sound
to be heard there. If it is not possible
to find a central position for such a
gun, from which it could be heard
everywhere throughout Bangkok—
though we fail to see why a position
of the kind could not be found—two
guns might be fired, one at either end
of the city. If something of the sort
is done it will be regarded as a very
welcome boon by all Bangkok resi-
dents, and much time will be saved and
many ruffled tempers soothed.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE Post and Telegraph Department
reports that Chienmai line is inter-
rupted beyond Utharadit. Other lines
are in good order.

New advts.—The Royal Bangkok
Sports Club has an announcement in
this issue with regard to the Race
Meeting on May 5th.

THE s.s. *Katong* will leave from the
Borneo Company's Wharf at 5 p.m.
on Saturday the 28th inst. and
should arrive in Singapore on Wednes-
day morning.

THE *Torino*, mail steamer from
Egypt to Italy, has been sunk in the
Mediterranean. The *Torino* had on
board the mail for Italy which left
Bangkok per s.s. *Kuala* on January
12th last.

500 Per Cent Dividend.

Last year there was a shipping firm
in Kobe conducted by one of the large-
est funa narikin ("war baby" or
"nonveau-riche"), which paid a divi-
dend of 500 per cent. per annum. There
have been no companies in any branch
of trade and industry rivaling that
dividend, but the same enormous rate
of dividend is now declared by a paper
manufacturing company in Osaka. The
Nakanechiu Paper Mill Company
held a general meeting of shareholders
and passed the following settlement of
last term's accounts:—
Net profit ... Yen 478,654
Brought forward ... 7,885
Total ... Yen 486,539
To legal reserve ... 25,000
Dividend, 500 per cent ... 415,000
Bonuses ... 29,000
The company's dividend for the pre-
vious term was 50 per cent.—Ex.

THE

Great War.

Arrival of French Commission.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 26.

Washington.—The French Commis-
sion, headed by M. Viviani and Mar-
shal Joffre, has arrived.

British Communique.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 26.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig re-
ports: We captured during the night
the hamlet of Bihem to the north-east
of Tressault, and fighting occurred
along our front in the early morning
between the Cajoul and the Scarpe
rivers. We made further progress, and
secured the ground we had gained.
Since April 23rd we have taken 3,029
prisoners, including 56 officers.

Trouble in Greece.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 26.

Further trouble is brewing in Greece.
It has been proved that irregulars, armed
from Athens, are operating against the
Venizelists.

The Dover Raid.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 26.

A German message admits the loss
of two destroyers in the engagement
off Dover, after a fruitless raid. Only
two British patrol vessels engaged the
Germans.

Dunkirk Bombarded.

(HAVAS TELEGRAM.)

Paris, April 26.

Dunkirk.—German destroyers bom-
barded the town. The French fleet
put out in pursuit. One of our torpedo-
boats was sunk.

Swiss Town Bombed.

(HAVAS TELEGRAM.)

Paris, April 26.

Berne.—A German aviator dropped
bombs on the town of Porrentruy in
Switzerland. Considerable damage
was done, and three persons were
wounded. The incident has occasioned
great excitement.

French Mission in America.

(HAVAS TELEGRAM.)

Paris, April 25.

The French official mission to the
United States arrived there yesterday.

French Communique.

(HAVAS TELEGRAM.)

Paris, April 25.

We progressed south-east of Cerny-
en-Laonnois, and in Champagne near
Montauzon, making prisoners. On the
outskirts of Heurtebise and on the
plateau of Vaucelle near Tahure in
Champagne we defeated German attacks
and inflicted losses.

Yesterday the British effected pro-
gress east of Monchy, Le Preux and
Roex, repulsed a violent counter-
attack with considerable loss to the
enemy, and occupied Beaucamp, Villers
and Plouich.

To-day we took Hameau de Bithem
north-east of Trescault, made progress
between Gavreul and the Scarpe river,
and consolidated the conquered posi-
tions.

The total number of prisoners taken
by us since April 23 is 3,029, amongst
them being 56 officers.

Paris, April 26.

Yesterday we scattered a German
attack north of Vauxaillon, and inflicted
a sanguinary defeat on the foe in front
of Heurtebise farm.

To day we repulsed all German at-
tacks in the Chemin des Dames district
west of Cerne, and at Navarin and
Tahure on the Champagne front.

The First Days Races.

Owing to a mistake our correspondent's notes on the handicaps for to-morrow were given in our issue of yesterday as notes on the first day's races. We now give these notes.

First Race.—Mr. Pollard, who tried his prudence hand at No 1 starter, was very successful in his start and the big field of ten restive ponies were off together at the fall of the flag except for Peter Simple, who failed to move rapidly enough. It was difficult to judge which ponies had the advantage but by the time the 3 furlongs post was reached it was clear that Bluff, Plawng and Sib Hok were leading in that order. All efforts of the others to change this order proved ineffective and Bluff won easily. It was remarked how like Thai Te the winner was.

Second Race.—Yot Rak led at the start with Rave d'Or a few lengths behind. Ratta Dara, of whom much was expected, could never get on even terms with the leaders. Though Rave d'Or got nearer the leader in the straight Yot Rak had the race well in hand and won easily.

Third Race.—Another good start with Thong Dee leading. At the half mile post Townit coming up at a rattling pace passed the leaders but he did not maintain this advantage for long. Thong Dee getting back into first place. In the straight Mad Meg challenged and won by a neck in the very good time for this class of 1.23 3/5.

Fourth Race.—The Ace led at the start but failed at the half mile when challenged by Gladys C. and Royal Page and Lakstoss both passed him. At the bend the Ace made another effort to catch up with the leaders and nearly succeeded, but Gladys C. and Royal Page quickly asserted their superiority, Gladys C. winning easily in three seconds better time than Mad Meg.

Fifth Race.—Molly and Say When started well together and made the pace very hot for the first couple of hundred yards. Here Say When stopped short as she did in her former attempts at going round the course. Kanla got the lead and kept it till the bend home when Lily E. challenged her, winning by a few lengths.

Sixth Race.—Royal Flush got best away and at the three furlongs post Moment was second about four lengths behind. Turning into the straight Moment coming on the inside passed the leader and had the race in her hands all the rest of the way. Phing Boon was a bad second.

Who Wanted War?

We are in a position to record a formal and categorical confession in the Austrian Press, proving that the Dual Monarchy desired and provoked the war, says the Daily Chronicle. The leading Vienna paper, Neue Freie Presse, in its issue of January 5th, frankly states that the Serbian Government's reply to the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum of July 23rd, 1914, satisfied all the demands of the Monarchy save one. This is the first time that a Viennese journal—and a very influential one—has made this avowal.

"The Serbian Government," says the paper, "in fact only refused to accept one of the demands embodied in the whole Austrian ultimatum—namely, the request that our police organisation should co-operate in guarding the frontiers, and other similar measures."

Since, therefore, Serbia accepted all the points of the ultimatum—on which though they were—save the one just cited, which was known beforehand to be unacceptable—why was war declared against her, and why was the whole world set in a blaze? Why, indeed?

The German Accounts.

London, April 19.—Wireless. German Official: French army orders found indicate the far-reaching objects of their attack on April 15 have failed. The French only approximately attained their tactical aims, to say nothing of their strategic objects. A French attack on the nights of April 15 and April 18 near Braye succeeded by repeated attacks on an elevated front at Chemin des Dames with special violence near Craonne, failed sanguinarily. Near Lailleux Bois the position has become unsuitable and we have established to the rear a fortified line. New fighting has developed in Champagne to the north-west of Aubervie, which was most intense this morning owing to the introduction of fresh forces. Russian fire has been more active between the Pripiet and the Dniester.

London, April 20.—Wireless. German Official: Several French attacks along the Aisne-Marne Canal, strongest against the position at Brimont, failed. Our counter-attack in Champagne compensates for the enemy gain northwest of Aubervie.

Paris, April 18.—Four Belgian relief ships provided with safe-conducts were recently sunk outside the danger zone near the Dutch Coast. The French government has requested the King of Spain to intervene at Berlin.

General Wire News.

Washington, April 18.—The Navy Department announces the destroyer sighted the submarine running submerged. The latter fired a torpedo, missing the destroyer at thirty yards, and then disappeared. This is Germany's first recognition of the existence of a state of war though it was reported last week Germany was about to declare as prohibited the area Boston, New York, Charleston, Savannah, Delaware Cape and Chesapeake bay.

London, April 18.—The Admiralty announce the arrivals during the past week were 2,379 and sailings 2,331. There were sunk 19 ships over 1,600 tons; 9 under 1,600 tons; 15 were unsuccessfully attacked; 12 fishing vessels were sunk.

An Italian naval communique says that in the week ending April 15: 454 ships arrived and 419 left Italy. Five Italian ships under 3,500 tons were sunk; 2 sailing ships under 150 tons were sunk.

Amsterdam, April 18.—Count Reventlow writing in the Tages Zeitung warns the Kaiser not to heed the appeals now appearing in many German newspapers to renounce territorial expansion. "Without German victory the German monarchy will soon cease to exist." A telegram from Vienna indicates that the acute political trouble continues. Two more Ministers have resigned, it is believed because they regard the convocation of the Reichsrath next month as highly inopportune, fearing that the Russian revolution will stimulate the demands for reforms.

Amsterdam, April 18.—The Vorwarts declares that the Berlin strikers who have resumed work want more bread, political reforms, and especially peace. It urges the Government to act accordingly.

Rio de Janeiro, April 18.—Anti-German rioting appears to be spreading. It has now reached Rio Clara and the State of Sao Paulo. The Germans in Parana are becoming alarmed and are flocking to Santa Catharina which is a German stronghold.

Rio de Janeiro, April 18.—A crowd at Porto da Legre, in Rio Grande do Sul attacked and damaged 270 German houses and set fire to a German club, hotel and large store. The riot was provoked by the Germans in the hotel fusillading a passing tramcar, whose occupants were cheering the Allies. The mob entered the house of a German and found a coining plant. The occupier was arrested. The whole garrison of the State has been called out to prevent the spread of disorders.

Petrograd, April 18.—It is reported from Jassy the Germans have burnt Braila and Focsani. Rumanian military experts consider this symptomatic of an early German withdrawal.

Washington, April 18.—The Senate has passed unanimously a seven billion dollar revenue bill including amendments which necessitate a conference of the two houses before the President can sign it.

London, April 18.—The Press bureau says that under Lord Devonport's order light pastries, muffins, crumpets, tea-cakes, and ornament cakes are prohibited. Buns and scones must contain only fifty per cent of wheaten flour, cakes thirty. Cakes and biscuits are allowed fifteen per cent of sugar and buns ten; scones are to be without sugar.

London, April 18.—The successes in the French communique of April 17, were gained on the same front as the battle of April 16. Thus in the French continuing tactics of alternating blows, they yesterday smashed the enemy south-west of Lens, and with the capture of Nanteuil and Vailly secured a footing on the great Laon-Craonne plateau, whose capture cost Napoleon a fifth of his effectives in 1814. That the French to day will attempt frontally to storm the plateau is not yet clear. They may prefer a turning movement between Berry au Bac and Reims. The possession of Villeduhois will give elbow room to the communications with Berry au Bac, which is an important junction of roads and canals. The capture of Ostel shows that the French hold a 600 feet hill. Com de Soupir, dominating Chavonnet. This is noteworthy as it was near Soupir that Haig forced the passage of the Aisne in September 1914. The mention of Courcy shows that the Russians are pushing the encirclement of Brimont mentioned yesterday morning.

London, April 19.—Correspondents at headquarters say that the steady rain and thick mist are robbing the British of the air supremacy and observation. Since the battle of Arras began the British armies have made four hundred daily crossings of the German line, taking photographs, thus enabling the gunners to smash the enemy batteries and emplacements.

The guns captured represent a third of the enemy's artillery. The cordon round Lens is now nearly a semi-circle and the British patrols are within 400 yards of the streets leading to the centre of the town. The Germans, damming the Souchez river, flooded a portion of Lens. Some of the suburbs are inundated and some mines have been found.

Washington, April 19.—The Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a bill permitting the Allies to recruit their citizens in the United States. Arrangements are being made to send five hundred American railway experts to reorganize the Russian railways.

London, April 19.—In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law announced

Notes From the North.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
Chiangmai, 15 April, 1917.

We are now in the middle of the hot weather and many of us have fled from the heat of the town to the cooler air on the hill. Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, P. J. and Mrs. Sakda and Mr. and Mrs. Aston are in the Huey Chang Kian, and Dr. and Mrs. Cort, Mrs. Reid and Miss Van Franken, are "tenting" right on the top of the hill 5,500 feet above sea level. It must be hot in the town now for it is as much as 90° in the Huey Chang Kian, but on the top I am told it has not been above 76°. Of course the top of the hill is the place to go for the hot weather, but it is rather an undertaking, as one has to take tents and it is about 7 miles from the foot of the hill and so is an all day climb for carriers from the town. Water also is rather troublesome; there is, however, a spring about 300 yards down the steep hillside directly under the top. Still it is rather lovely up there among the pines and bracken, with wonderful views for 40 or 50 miles when clear.

Those who knew the road to the hill—the Huey Know Road—a year or two ago would hardly recognize it now. Formerly one hardly met a soul on it, now it is a busy highway. This is partly owing to the new "Royal Pages School" at the foot of the hill and partly to the extensive quarrying on the hill for stone for the Lamphoon road. Early morning and late evening one meets the boys from the school each with towel and dipper off for a bath in the clear cool water of the Huey Know. The jungle has been thoroughly cleared off round the school, leaving the teak trees, and now the ground is being levelled for a sports field. Altogether the school looks very picturesque and will be a great advantage to the boys of the north.

There are several houses empty in the Huey Chang Kian, as many have not been able to come up yet, owing to the Annual Mission Meeting which is now being held in Chiangmai. I am sorry to say Mrs. Mason has not been at all well lately.

I have been wondering which is the nicer: a holiday on the hill here or at the sea-side—Hua Hin for example. From the Bangkok point of view there is the long railway journey to the north to be considered and in this connection the absence of any place to stay the night in at Pitsanuloke. I am not a grumbler but I do thing something might be done in this direction. At present, unless one is an official and stays at the Tiger Club or begs the hospitality of the local resident, one is hard put to it to find a place to spend the night. Apart from the railway journey the advantage of the hill is that it is certainly cooler than the sea-side but on the other hand there is more to do at the sea-side and at the latter there is always—the sea.

We were very sorry to hear Mrs. Wood had an attack of appendicitis immediately on her return from home, but hope she and Mr. Wood will soon be able to proceed on their journey here.

May I add my humble congratulations—but very sincere ones—to the Government on its abolition of the gambling houses.

that there would be a secret session and stated that there had recently been losses of hospital ships which would be published.

Lord Robert Cecil stated that he had no official information showing that the Provisional Government of Russia was willing that the Dardanelles should become international.

Mr. Byles suggested that peace negotiations be made.

Mr. Swift McNeill said that it would be time enough to consider peace proposals when the Germans cease to blow up hospital ships.

Mr. Bonar Law: That is a better answer than my own, which was in the negative.

London, April 19.—In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Budget would be introduced on April 30.

London, April 19.—The Greek situation is again becoming acute owing to food difficulties and a variety of other reasons.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law stated the Allied Governments were discussing the position in Greece but any statement at present would be premature. The situation could be discussed at the forthcoming secret session.

So far the United States has not participated in the discussion on Greece but he had no doubt that as soon as arrangements have been concluded the United States would be consulted in every matter in which their interests were concerned.

London, April 19.—In the House of Commons Mr. Fisher, introducing the Education Estimates, which were £3,829,000 above last year, emphasised the necessity of removing the deficiencies of the educational system revealed by the war.

Paris, April 19.—A mission including M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre is proceeding to America to convey the Government's greetings on her entry into the war.

Madrid, April 19.—The Cabinet has resigned.

Madrid, April 19.—It is believed that the Liberals will remain in power.

Madrid, April 20.—Sr. Prieto, president of the Senate, has formed a Cabinet.

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Meklong Railway Co., Ltd.

TIME TABLE.

IN FORCE FROM 1st JANUARY, 1917 TO JULY, 1917.

BANGKOK-MEKLONG.			MEKLONG-BANGKOK.		
Distance from Bangkok.	Train No.		Distance from Meklong.	Train No.	
STATIONS.	I. III. V.		STATIONS.	VI. VI.	
	A.M. P.M. P.M.			A.M. P.M.	
Km. Bangkok Dep.	8.30 12.30 4.30		Km. Meklong Dep.	8.35 12.35	
33.1 Mahachai			B. Hlane		
Terminus Arr.	9.50 1.50 5.50		33.8 Terminus Arr.	9.55 1.55	

The Company's Steam Launches will meet Trains to carry through passengers across the Tachin River at a fixed rate.

BANGKOK-MEKLONG.			MEKLONG-BANGKOK.		
Distance from B. Hlane.	Train No.		Distance from Mahachai.	Train No.	
STATIONS.	I. III. V.		STATIONS.	II. IV. VI.	
	A.M. P.M.			A.M. A.M. P.M.	
Km. B. Hlane			Mahachai		
Terminus Dep	10.20 2.20		Terminus Dep	6.45 10.45 2.45	
33.8 Meklong Arr.	11.40 3.40		33.1 Bangkok Arr.	8.05 12.05 4.05	

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Fighting Aircraft in the Offensive.

In his last official despatch published at the beginning of this year, and dated G. H. Q., December 23, 1916, Sir Douglas Haig, in dealing with the work of the Royal Flying Corps, laid particular stress on the importance of aircraft in the warfare of to-day, and said in effect that unless he can have the best aeroplanes and plenty of them he will not be responsible for the consequences. His exact words were: "I desire to point out, however, that the maintenance of mastery in the air, which is essential, entails a constant and liberal supply of the most up-to-date machines, without which even the most skilful pilots cannot succeed." Premising that it is well within the powers of the British aircraft industry to supply liberally the most up-to-date machines, it is of interest to consider what constitutes an aeroplane of such kind. A handy definition, from our point of view, is that an up-to-date aeroplane is one which is a trifle better than the corresponding type of enemy aeroplane.

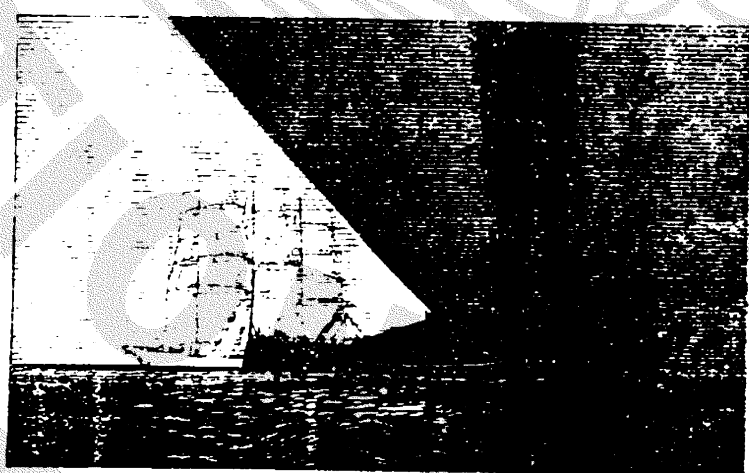
There are two methods of estimating the ability of enemy aeroplanes. One is by examination of captured specimens, the other is by collating the accounts of various pilots who have met and fought the newest type enemy machines in the air, and who, knowing the speed and climbing capacity of their own mounts, can form a fairly just idea of the value of the enemy's aeroplanes. In the former one obtains definite figures and knowledge of mechanical details and design. In the latter the information may be vague, but it is nevertheless highly educative. For example, over a year ago, when the "Fokker scourge" was at its worst, a young friend of mine, a highly skilled pilot of one of our fastest scout biplanes, wrote to me, "This Herr Immelmann is the very devil. I've met him two or three times, and we got drums of ammunition at one another without result, but a few holes in the wings. He fires through his propeller, he flies beautifully, and he is miles an hour faster than the scout"—meaning his own machine, of course. It is therefore fairly obvious that an up-to-date fighting machine of that period should have been still more "miles an hour faster than the scout," and, to make an up-to-date fighting unit, should be piloted by a still more expert pilot, highly trained in the use of the machine gun or guns. Lecturing some few weeks ago at an open meeting of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain on the training of aviators, Brigadier-General Branker, director of air organisation, and

himself a very experienced active service officer gave a very good idea of the modern method of producing war pilots. Without indicating the types of aeroplanes used, or the details of training he explained how after a batch of military aviators have passed through their course of training on the slower types of school machines, those who show particular aptitude are passed on to "scout schools," where they are given a special course of what is commonly called "aerobatics," in flying the highest speed machines and handling them acrobatically in the air as is necessary in air fighting. He further explained how fighting instructors carry on sham fights in the air with their pupils, armed with cameras instead of guns. He also referred to our special aerial gunnery schools, without, however, indicating the enormous work which is being done in this direction, for which he himself is largely responsible. It is well to remember that the most expert pilot in the world is useless as a fighting man if he does not thoroughly understand his machine-gun, for a perfect flyer with a jammed gun is of little use against a merely moderate pilot who is a crack shot and a real gun master. A combination of the two is the desideratum, as, for example, in the case of a young pilot of the R.N.A.S. whose engine stopped dead at a height of some 15,000 ft. recently when he was being attacked by two German aeroplanes. Despite this loss of motive power, and the consequent obligation to descend constantly, he shot down one enemy machine, frightened the other away, and glided into our own lines undamaged.

Thus it may be seen that we are working very seriously to maintain that "mastery in the air" which Sir Douglas Haig desires. We should also consider what our aeroplanes must do to enable our pilots to attain the ascendancy in the air, for the upper berth in air fighting is precisely what the "weather gauge" was to war vessels in the days of sailing ships, in that it permits the ascendant pilot to attack when and where he pleases and to avoid being attacked when he so pleases. During the bad time at the end of 1915 when the lightly-loaded Fokker monoplanes, with a fighting pilot alone on board and carrying fuel for only a couple of hours, outclimbed and dived upon our reconnaissance machines, loaded up with petrol and oil for three or four hours' flying, and carrying pilot, observer, a couple of guns, cameras, and so forth, they reached their then considerable height of 10,000 ft. whence they assailed at will our heavier and slower machines at 7,000 ft. to 9,000 ft. The Fokkers were credited with speeds varying from 90 to 110 miles an hour, according to the type, and most of

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them had rotary engines like the Gnome of 100 horse-power. Few of our machines then exceeded 90 miles an hour, and our engines mostly gave between 70 and 80 horse-power. Though some had 100 horse-power these were generally heavy long-distance machines which needed all their power to maintain a moderate speed, whereas the Fokkers used the same power for lighter work, seeing that they were only needed for fighting on their own side of the lines.

The position was vastly improved during 1916, by the introduction of small, fast fighting machines, all biplanes, of British and French design, which eventually wiped the Fokkers out of the sky. Towards the end of 1916, however, the Germans introduced a number of new biplanes, chiefly modelled on French and British designs. These are known as the Albatros, Halberstadt, Azo, Roland, and the new Fokker. The majority of them have fixed-cylinder engines of Mercedes or Benz make, giving between 160 and 200 horse-power, and some have rotary engines giving between 120 and 130 horse-power. Their speed is generally estimated as being between 100 and 120 miles an hour but their chief feature is their ability for climbing. In the ordinary way they frequent the 14,000 foot levels and they have been observed in the regions of 20,000 ft. by some of our best mounted pilots.

Thus one perceives that it is not enough for our own machines to beat by a small margin the enemy's performances of a year ago. In point of fact we actually possess aeroplanes capable of beating the newest German designs. Some of them have already been on active service, and have proved the fact to the enemy. Therefore the only factor unknown to the enemy is whether we can produce such machines in sufficient quantities to maintain the mastery of the air. The enemy would be flattered himself if he assumed that we cannot do so. Nevertheless it is well to recognise that before the war a German aeroplane reached a height of 25,500 odd feet, and it is rumoured that the latest German order for aeroplane engines of high power is for 30,000, so that one may easily appreciate the task before the Supply Departments of our new Air Board.

In the foregoing notes I have dealt altogether with the supply of fighting aeroplanes for the good and sufficient reason that on this class depends the mastery of the air which Sir Douglas Haig requires. If we cannot hold that mastery and so beat off the enemy's

fighting machines then our own reconnaissance, and infantry contact, and photography, and artillery-spotting, and bomb-dropping aeroplanes are at the enemy's mercy. And if we cannot destroy the enemy's reconnaissance and artillery-spotting machines our troops on the ground must be at a grave disadvantage. Hence the prime importance of the high speed, high-climbing fighting aeroplanes in the next great offensive.

Russia—American Help.

Washington, April 18.—The Government is only awaiting definite word from Russia regarding her needs, whereupon she will give every needed assistance, financial or otherwise. The feeling is that the United States should go to almost any lengths to assist to strengthen the new democratic regime and make its resistance to Germany more effective.

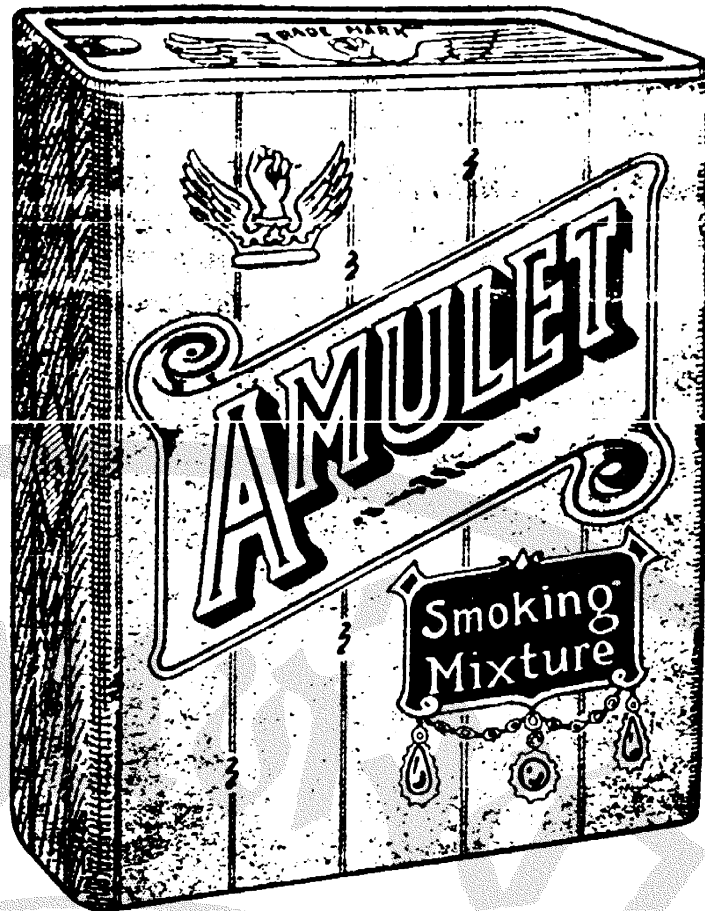
Petrograd, April 18.—The Premier and other Ministers visited headquarters, to discuss questions regarding the provisioning of the armies. They noted that the general situation of the army as compared with the end of March has considerably improved, especially in connection with the supply of food stuffs. Indeed the armies are now well provisioned. The Minister of Agriculture stated it to be his duty to meet every requirement of the armies in the matter of provisioning. The Premier declared that the unrest which the army showed at the first stage of the revolution had completely disappeared. The fighting spirit was daily improving while the discipline was excellent and the army was quite ready to encounter the enemy. General Koroloff, commanding the troops at Petrograd, sent a proclamation calling on the people to return the 40,000 rifles and 30,000 revolvers which were taken from the military stores during the revolution.

Berne, April 18.—It is reported from Vienna that operations at the Austrian front are at a complete standstill.

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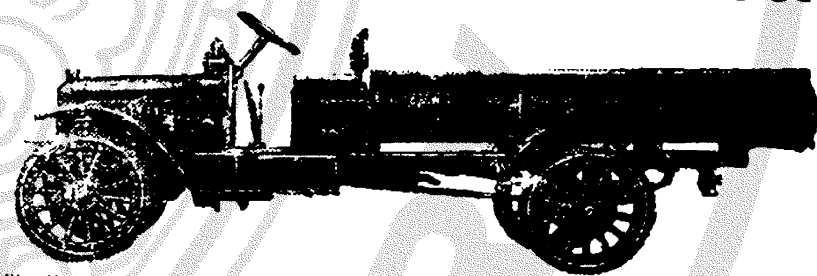
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ROYAL STATE RAILWAYS.

SOUTHERN LINE. In force from 1st April, 1917.

Down				Up				Down				Up			
Tues. Thurs.	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily	daily
a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.					a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.				
7.—	8.—	1.20	2.05	Dep. Bangkok Noi	Arr.	11.38	12.33	4.53	7.14	Dep. Chumpon	Arr.	5.30			
8.15	9.48	2.45	4.27	.. M. Nakhon Patom	..	9.26	11.10	3.17	6.01	.. Langsten	..	5.31			
9.36	11.38	4.20	6.57	Arr. Ratburi	Dep.	6.30	9.38	1.30	4.37	.. Surashtra Dhani	..	12.03			
9.46	11.52	4.30		Dep. ..	Arr.	a.m.	9.28	1.02	4.27	Arr. Tung Song	Dep.	7.10			
10.57	1.26	6.18		Arr. Petchaburi	Dep.	7.20	11.18	3.17							
11.05	2.—			Dep. ..	Arr.	a.m.	10.45	3.09							
12.38	5.—			Dep. Hua Hin	..		7.54	1.39							
1.06	5.49			Arr. Wang Phong	Dep.		7.—	1.08							
1.14				Dep. ..	Arr.		a.m.	1.—	5.35						
3.01				.. Prachuap Kirikan	..		11.21	3.10							
7.06				Arr. Chumpon	Dep.		7.05	8.35							
							a.m.	a.m.							
Tung Song-Nakhon Srithammaraj								Nakhon Srithammaraj-Tung Song							
Daily								Daily							
a.m.	p.m.			Dep. Tung Song	Arr.		5.37								
7.—	1.80			.. Nakhon Junction	..		12.0	4.34							
8.09	2.44			Arr. Nakhon Srithammaraj	Dep.		10.46	3.14							
9.28							a.m.	p.m.							
Tung Song-Singora								Singora-Tung Song							
on Tues. Thurs. & Sat.								on Mons. Weds. & Fri.							
a.m.				Dep. Tung Song	Arr.		2.24								
11.11				.. N. Junction	..		1.23								
12.27				.. Patadung	..		10.44								
2.50				.. Ootapao	..		8.06								
5.26				Arr. Singora	Dep.		7.—								
6.17							a.m.								

"The Queen of Weapons."

It is sixty years since Sir Charles Napier gave to the bayonet this Royal title but the present war has served only to strengthen its right to the honour. On the Western Front raids are at present the order of the day. The big guns' deep diapason makes the preparation for their success, the bombs make it more certain, but it is the bayonet that secures it. In view of its history it is but meet and proper that the bayonet should be the weapon to cleanse France of the German, by flinging him across the Rhine, for it is essentially the weapon of the Allies. It is the joint product of French initiative and English development.

Bayonets gave it a name, first manufactured it, and on a hill behind the town saw its invention and first use. But if Bayonets was its sponsor, necessity was its parent. A company of Basque smugglers was brought to bay on a hill near to the town. Their ammunition being exhausted, defeat and surrender seemed inevitable. This crisis brought the man. One of the smugglers whipped out his long-handled knife, and rammed the handle into the muzzle of his useless musket. The idea was instantly caught up, and effectively used. Pell-mell down the hill came the smugglers, and victory followed in the wake of this first bayonet charge. But the French made of their defeat a stepping-stone to future victories. They were assured that what Basque smugglers could do they could improve upon. They set to work and began at this little coast town the manufacture of this weapon of Bayonne. But there seem to have been bayonets before The Bayonet. In 1611 a "bayonet" was defined as "a kind of small flat pocket dagger furnished with knives"; and sixty years later Charles II. ordered that "the soldiers of the several troops aforesaid are also to carry one Bayonet or Great Knife." While however, there were still bayonets in England, in France the bayonet had emerged from its knife-sheath and taken its place in the end of the musket. Coincidence contrived that its first appearance upon the field of battle should be made where it is at present being put to such full use, namely, in the district round Ypres. But in travelling north from Bayonne no improvement had been made upon the hasty improvisation of the Basques, for the "musketeeers," says the elder Pyragur, "used bayonets consisting of steel daggers," and to these is given the name of "plug-bayonets" the reason being too obvious for recital. And it was this plug-bayonet which was served

out to that portion of the British Army present at the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689, and led to their complete undoing. The Highlanders charged down upon them at the precise moment when they were fixing the hafts of their bayonets into the muzzles of their muskets. They were caught when they were practically unarmed, when they were neither musketeers nor pikemen, and for once the use of the bayonet led to an army's discomfiture. But General Mackie, who was in command, correctly diagnosed the cause of the defeat, and effected a cure. He took the haft out of the muzzle, turned it into a ring, and put it round the barrel. Thus was taken the first step towards the bayonet's present pre-eminence. This improvement, in spite of its significance was too subtle to be understood by the pundits at the War Office. Fifteen years later the *Gazette's* description of the Battle of Blenheim says: "Our Grenadiers . . . after two or three volleys . . . put their bayonets into the muzzles of their pieces."

Another century elapsed, and then in 1805 Sir John Moore added the spring-clip, the last touch towards perfection in essentials, and so formidable a weapon did it become that, about the time of the Crimean War, many men, eminently qualified to judge, suggested its abandonment. Dr. Guthrie, the eminent army surgeon, protested that the general opinion of its efficacy was a complete delusion. He wrote: "The battle of Maida is usually referred to as . . . a bayonet fight; nevertheless the sufferer, whether killed or wounded, English or French, suffered from bullets, not bayonets." Wounds from bayonets were not less rare in the Peninsular War.

Since Moore made the bayonet perfect in essentials, tactical considerations and developments have resulted in various minor modifications of the weapon. At the beginning of the last century, the blade was triangular in section; useful for thrusting, but not for slashing. Then an effort was made to hybridise it and the weapon resulting was neither sword nor bayonet, but a sort of cross-breed. During the Soudan War the Government suffered from a cold fit of economy, arming some of the troops with bayonets fashioned from marines' cutlasses, and the immediate results were deplorable, though ultimately the lesson was driven home that a bayonet is not a sort of bastard sword, but a weapon necessary in certain definite circumstances, and demanding therefore very definite proportion.

And so, gradually, by our usual method of "trial and error"—the soldiers endured the trials while the officials made the errors—we have won through to our present weapon, seventeen persuasive inches of finely-tem-

pered forged steel. It is a trusty weapon, which has to prove its worth in the factory before being carried to the field. The test is rigorous and exacting, for it has to spring back straight after being pulled through a full-quarter circle. The slightest flaw, and it will never go out to teach the gentle German the absolute impossibility of Kultur and civilisation existing in the same world.—Ex.

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Bank Bills, demand	1/6 7/16
Bank Bills, 3 months' sight	—
PARIS—	
Bank Bills, demand	205
GERMANY—	
Bank Bills, demand	—
NEW YORK—	
Bank Bills, demand U. S. A.	36
INDIA—	
Bank Bills, demand	108 3/4
SINGAPORE—	
Bank Bills, demand	\$65 1/2
HONGKONG—	
Bank Bills, demand	\$ 64 1/4
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a.m. 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.10.
p.m. 1, 1.30, 2.30, 3.10, 3.50, 4.40, 5.30. daily.
Bangkabue to Samkuk 2.30 p.m. daily.
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Boats leave Tha Chang Wang Luang landing a.m. 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, and p.m. 1.00, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30, and 5.30. daily.

LINE 4—KLONG SAMRONG LOCK TO BANG HIA.
Boats leave the Lock in connection with the Paknam Railway train 10.45 a.m. from Bangkok.

ROYAL STATE RAILWAYS.

(Broad Gauge Lines.)

TIME TABLE

In force from 1st April, 1916.

	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Bangkok Dep.	7.00	9.48	1.25	3.33	Lampang Dep.	...	...	...	7.33
Ayuthia Arr.	9.3	11.41	3.33	5.45	Den Chai "	...	...	...	p.m.
Ban Phaji Arr.	9.47	12.20	4.24	6.30	Tha Sao "	...	...	...	7.1
					Utaradit "	...	...	...	7.18
					Ban Dara Arr.	...	...	...	8.16
									3.26
Ban Phaji Dep.	9.57	12.37	4.30	...	Sawa'loke Dep.	...	...	...	a.m.
Lopburi Arr.	11.5	1.55	5.48	...	Ban Dara Arr.	...	...	...	p.m.
Chengket Dep.	12.33	3.38	...	a.m.					8.1
Pak'poh Arr.	2.17	5.40	...	7.25					3.11
Pak'poh Dep.	2.26	6.30	...	...	Ban Dara Dep.	...	...	...	a.m.
Pitsa'loke Arr.	6.	11.5	...	...	Pitsa'loke Arr.	...	...	...	p.m.
									8.24
									3.32
Pitsa'loke Dep.	7.4	2.2	...	...					10.43
Ban Dara Arr.	9.5	4.18	...	...	Pak'poh Arr.	...	...	...	a.m.
									6.20
Ban Dara Dep.	9.20	4.40	...	...					10.34
S'kaloke Arr.	10.21	5.41	...	...			
Ban Dara Dep.	9.10	4.25	...	...	Pak'poh Dep.	3.52	...	...	a.m.
Utaradit "	10.6	5.29	...	...					7.30
Tha Sao Arr.	10.15	5.38	...	...	Chongket Arr.	6.21	...	...	p.m.
Den Chai "	11.57	...	...	...	Lopburi Dep.	...	7.10	11.6	1.56
Lampang "	4.52	...	...	...	Ban Phaji Arr.	...	8.30	12.21	3.4
Ban Phaji Dep.	10.10	12.30	4.41	...	Korat Dep.	3.57	...	...	a.m.
Gongkoi Arr.	11.7	1.26	5.51	...	Lat Bua Kao Ar.	5.55	...	...	p.m.
									7.40
Ban Dara Dep.	...	4.2	...	8.2	Gongkoi Dep.	...	7.12	11.32	1.52
Korat "	...	6.8	...	10.3					
					Ban Phaji Arr.	...	8.22	12.29	2.59
Bangkok Dep.	7.45	...	...	p.m.					
Petrien Arr.	9.33	...	...	3.50	Ban Phaji Dep.	6.27	8.37	12.44	3.14
				5.38	Ayuthia "	7.13	9.25	1.23	3.58
					Bangkok Arr.	9.26	11.35	8.16	6.40
					Petrien Dep.	7.50	p.m.
					Bangkok Arr.	9.38	a.m.
									5.45

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