

"Siam Observer"
Oldest Established
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in Siam.
Has the Largest
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The Siam Observer.

"Siam Observer"
STATIONERY STORE
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Office Requisites
and
Stationery of
Every Description.

FIRST DAILY TO BE PUBLISHED IN SIAM.

VOL. 42. NO. 2.

BANGKOK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1916.

PRICE 25 SATANGS

STEAMER SAILINGS.

K. P. M.
JAVA-SIAM LINE
OF THE
Royal Packet S. N. Co.
(KONINKLYK PAKETVAART
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DIRECT SERVICE
between Bangkok and Java.

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we have just opened our shop at
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have received a large stock of Iron
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House and Boat Builders and Con-
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HIGH CLASS TAILOR,
Opposite Oriental Avenue on the
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Executes all kinds of Tailoring in
the latest fashions.
Send Post Card, and he will wait on
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I, the undersigned beg
to notify all customers
and clients that my
business is now located
at the new building at
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Poh Yome and Bang-
rak

Ah Seang, Tailor.

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UNSHRINKABLE
UNDERWEAR.

Is the ideal underwear for the tropics: being
Pure Wool it prevents chills and fevers, and owing
to the soft silk-like finish does not irritate like
ordinary woollen underwear.

YOU RUN NO RISKS WITH
"JASON" ALL-WOOL
UNDERWEAR.

JASON QUALITY 3217
(Light Weight) VESTS.

Open fronts, half sleeves,
a good weight for regular
wear, all the year round.

Chest 28 30 32 34
36 inches.

Tcs. 4-50 4-90 5-10 5-25
5-60 each.

Chest 38 40 42 44
46 inches.

Tcs. 5-90 6-20 6-50 6-75
7-00 each.

JASON QUALITY 3217
(Light Weight) PANTS.

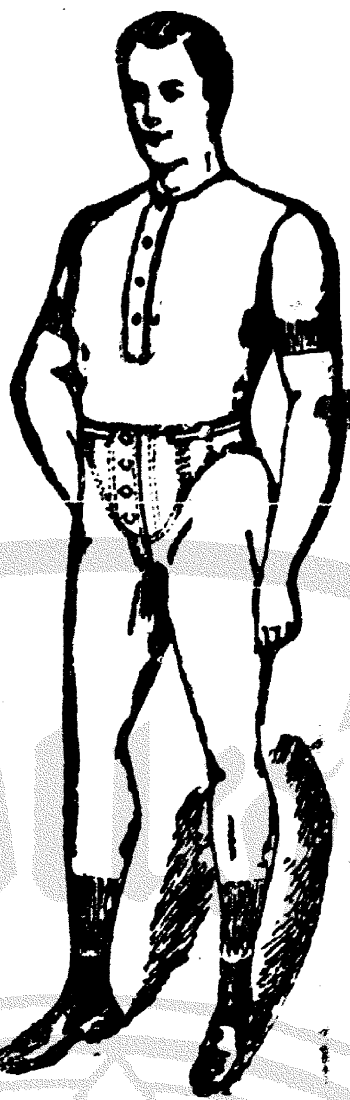
To ankle. The best and
most Reliable weight for
all the year round wear.

Waist 30 32 34 36
38 inches.

Tcs. 5-20 5-40 5-60 5-80
6-00 per pair.

Waist 40 42 44
46 inches.

Tcs. 6-25 6-50 6-75
7-00 per pair.



WHITEAWAY LAIDLAW & CO., LTD.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

N.B. All Sailings are subject to alteration if and as necessary.

HOMEWARD

1915/6

MAIL LINE SAILINGS.

Leaves Singapore	Connecting at	Due London
a.m., Friday	Colombo with	
s.s. "Namur" Dec. 24	s.s. "Mooltan"	Jan. 22, 1916
"Nankin" Jan. 7, 1916	"Maloja"	Feb. 5
"Novara" 21	"Arabia"	19
"Kashmir" Feb. 4	"Moldavia"	Mar. 4
"Sardinia" 18	"Karmala"	20
"Nankin" Mar. 3	"Medina"	Apr. 1
"Malta" 17	"Mongolia"	15

Intermediate Direct Sailings.

s/s "Nellore" leaves Singapore about Feb. 7 due London Mar. 16	1916
"Mongara" do do Mar. 22 do Apr. 29	
"Nore" do do Mar. 21 do Apr. 27	

OUTWARD-1915/6.

For China.

Due Singapore	Connection with	Leaving London
s/s "Novara" Dec. 12	s/s "Arabia"	Nov. 13
"Nellore" 26	"Moldavia"	27
"Mongara" 31	"Moldavia"	19
"Sardinia" Jan. 9, 1916	"Karmala"	Dec. 11
"Nankin" 23	"Medina"	24
"Nore" 28	"Mongolia"	21
"Namur" Feb. 6	"Mongolia"	Jan. 8, 1916
"Novara" 20	"Malwa"	22
"Malta" Mar. 5	"Mooltan"	Feb. 5
"Nagoya" 10		5

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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Circular tickets are issued which allow of passengers proceeding to London
via Suez, returning via America, or vice versa.
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s. s. Kamo Maru	Dec. 22	s. s. Atsuta Maru	Feb. 16
	1916		
s. s. Kashima Maru	Jan. 5	s. s. Yasaka Maru	Mar. 1
s. s. Mishima Maru	" 19	s. s. Miyazaki Maru	" 16
s. s. Suwa Maru	Feb. 2	s. s. Kitano Maru	" 29

FOR HONGKONG AND JAPAN.

s. s. Atsuta Maru	Dec. 22	s. s. Fushimi Maru	Feb. 16
	1916		
s. s. Yasaka Maru	Jan. 5	s. s. Hirano Maru	Mar. 1
s. s. Miyazaki Maru	19	s. s. Katori Maru	15
s. s. Kitano Maru	Feb. 2	s. s. Kamo Maru	29

JAPAN-AMERICA LINE.

Steamers will leave HONGKONG for SEATTLE as follows:

s. s. Yokohama Maru	Dec. 23	s. s. Aki Maru	Feb. 22
	1916		1916
s. s. Sado Maru	Jan. 11	s. s. Tamba Maru	Mar. 7
s. s. Awa Maru	" 25	s. s. Yokohama Maru	" 16
s. s. Shidzuoka Maru	Feb. 3	s. s. Sado Maru	Apr. 4

JAPAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE.

Steamers will leave HONGKONG for MELBOURNE as follows:

	1916		1916
s. s. Nikko Maru	Jan. 14	s. s. Tango Maru	Mar. 14
s. s. Hitachi Maru	Feb. 14	s. s. Nikko Maru	Apr. 14

Round the World Tickets via New York, £104.10/-
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SAILS, TARPAULINGS, CORDAGE, ROPES
AND FISHING NETS, WHICH ARE THUS
SECURED AGAINST THE DECAYING EF-
FECTS OF THE WEATHER. WOOD IM-
PREGNATED WITH CUPRINOL WILL
NOT BE ATTACKED BY FUNGI OR
WHITE ANTS. IT HAS BEEN THOROUGH-
LY TESTED BY THE DANISH WAR
ARSENAL THE REPORT OF WHICH WE
SHALL BE GLAD TO SEND YOU ON
APPLICATION.

Stocked in drums of 20 kilos.

Price Tos. 22.00 nett
per drum.

For quantities a special price

Oriental Store,

SOLE AGENTS.

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD.

Bangkok-Europe Line

m/s "Fionia"	...	Arrv. 1st half of Feb. 1916.
m/s "Pagan"	...	Arrv. 2nd " " "

THE SIAM STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

West coast Mail Service.

For Koh Lak, Chumpon, Taku, Langsuen, Bandon, Koh Samui, Lacon
Singora, Patani, Panarai, Telupin, Bangnara, Takbai, Kelantan, Becho
Semarak, Bisut, Tringganu, Kretay and Singapore.

List of Departures from Bangkok:

* S.S.	"Yugala" ...	...	1st January 1916.
**	"Chutatch" ...	...	4th " "
	"Mahidol" ...	...	8th " "
* S.S.	"Boribat" ...	...	11th " "
**	"Prachitipok" ...	...	15th " "
**	No Departure ...	...	18th " "
	"Yugala" ...	...	22nd " "
**	"Chutatch" ...	...	25th " "
* S.S.	"Mahidol" ...	...	29th " "
	"Mahidol" ...	...	" "
* Not calling at Kohlak, Taku, Tavai, Krelay.			
**	<i>Kohamui, Panarai, Bacho, Semarang, Bisul.</i>		

Not calling at Kohlak, Taku, Tabai, Kretay.
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East Coast Mail Service.

For Sriracha, Kohsichang, Koh Pai, Koh Pra, Bayong, Koh Samit,
Chantaboon, Ban Yao, Krat and Koh Kong.

s.s. "Asdang" leaving every Saturday at noon; not calling at Koh Pai
s.s. "Krat" " " Wednesday " " Kohsichang
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Managing Agents.

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

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HONGKONG.
CHIEF MANAGER.
N. J. STABE.

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Bombay	Kuala Lumpur	Saigon
Calcutta	London	San Francisco
Canton	Lyons	Shanghai
Colombo	Malacca	Singapore
Foochow	Manila	Sourabaya
Hamburg	Nagasaki	Tientsin
Hankow	New York	Yokohama
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INTEREST Allowed on current accounts at the rate of 1 per cent per annum on the daily balances.

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Saturdays - 9 " " 12 noon.
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Acting Agent.

Chartered Bank

OF
INDIA AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND ... £1,800,000
FURTHER LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS ... £1,200,000

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Deposits are received for fixed periods at rates which can be ascertained on application

G. E. ALLEN,
Agent.
Bangkok, July 1, 1909.

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Societe Anonyme au Capital de 48.000.000 de Francs.

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The rates of interest allowed on fixed Deposit Account can be ascertained on application to the Directeur.

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Saturdays 9 a. m. to 12 noon

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Haiphong	Pnom-Penh	Tientsin
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(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

PAID UP CAPITAL
TICALS 8,000,000

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Phya Boribun Raja
Phya Jaiyot Somhathi
Phya Boribun Raja
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London Bankers—Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft, Swiss Bankverein.

The Institution buys, sells, and collects Bills of Exchange on Europe, India, and China and transacts every description of Exchange and Banking business.

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A. WILLEKE,
Actg. Manager,

Bangkok, March 27, 1909.

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Fully paid up Capital
Sh. Ticals 7,500,000

HEAD OFFICE ... Shanghai
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ... Berlin.

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Berlin. Peking. Kobe.
Calcutta. Tientsin. Yokohama.
Hankow. Tsinanfu. Hamburg.
Hongkong. Tsingtau. Canton.

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Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons.
Union of London & Smiths Bank, Ltd.
Deutsche Bank (Berlin) London Agency.
Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft.

H. FIGGE, CHIEF MANAGER.
AGENTS IN SIAM.

The Siam Commercial Bank, Ltd.

A. WILLEKE,
Actg. Manager.
Bangkok, 5-11-10. 4-11-1911.
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THE Siam Observer.

THE OLDEST AND LEADING DAILY
NEWSPAPER IN SIAM.

Eight-Page English

AND

Eight-Page Siamese Editions.

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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 8 per annum

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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.

Studebaker

THE STUDEBAKER MOTOR CAR

Model 1916—4 Cylinders
Electric Starter and Lighting (Wagner System)



PRICE TICALS. 3600

The Studebaker is not of the class of cheap American Car.
The Studebaker is a high grade medium price Automobile.
Special feature of the New Model: Two auxiliary seats which disappear into the floor when not in use.

New consignments Arriving shortly.

G. KLUZER & Co. Sole Agents for Siam.

To Let.

A two-storey Bungalow situated in Windmill Road bearing No. 23, with out-houses.
(Near Mr. Sandreski's house)
Apply to—
JIWAJEE RAJA & SONS
Rajawongse Road.
28—27 J.

TIDE TABLE.

DEPTH OF WATER ON THE BANGKOK BAR.

FOR JANUARY, 1916.

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

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

PHASES OF THE MOON.

Jan.	5th	O New Moon	11.33	a.m.
"	12th	) First Quarter	10.16	a.m.
"	20th	O Full Moon	3.11	p.m.
"	27th	(Last Quarter	7.17	a.m.

German News Service.

This teaches small countries like Rumania to keep of the struggle. The Entente only wants more victims but the paper hopes Rumania will be strong enough to avoid any adventure.

The Rumanian paper Inante, in an article about the fate of Serbia, says that the Entente wants but new victims. Serbia is now left alone, without help. King Peter's wandering about reminds one of the tragedy of King Lear.

Headquarters, Berlin, Nov. 26.
OFFICIAL. Southwest of Sjenica and Mitrovica, the enemy's rearguards, which had maintained themselves before the armies of General Field Marshal von Mackensen, have been thrown back. The prosecution of the Serbians continues. Rdnik, southwest of Mitrovica, has been occupied. The Allied troops have captured more than 2,700 Serbians and taken much war material.

Nov. 27.
The Austro-Hungarian troops have cleared the district southwest of Mitrovica up to the Grina section of the enemy. The number taken prisoners here and in Mitrovica is more than 1,700.

The Germans have occupied the heights west of Pristina on the left bank of the Stinica (which runs through the plains of the Blackbirds) and have made 400 prisoners.

The Bulgarians have crossed the line Golea-Stimlja-Yecerce-Ljubeti south of the Dreniza.

Nov. 29.
The pursuit of the Servians continues. More than 1500 have been captured and up to now 502 cannon, among which are a very large number of heavy guns, have been taken.

Headquarters, Vienna, Nov. 24.
OFFICIAL. Austro-Hungarian troops have crossed the river line near Priboj. The Austrians and Hungarians are advancing south of Novi-Bazar towards the Montenegrin front.

Nov. 25.
The Montenegrins have been thrown back east of Foca. The Austro-Hungarians have passed the Montenegrin frontier, southeast of Sjenica.

Nov. 26.
The whole plain of Kosovopolje is now in the hands of the allies. Austro-Hungarian troops, fighting on the Upper Drina, threw the enemy forces across the river Golea and the Komara saddle, taking Caynja.

The Montenegrins have been thrown back southwest of Caynja. The Austro-Hungarians are now ascending the Mokra Planina, southwest of Novi-Bazar.

November 27.
The Austro-Hungarian troops on the Suha Planina, west of Mitrovica, have driven the Serbians to the Montenegrin frontier. The number of prisoners made in Mitrovica has reached 11,000 soldiers and 3500 civilians bound to military service.

November 29.
The Austro-Hungarian offensive against the northern and north eastern parts of Montenegro is progressing. The Austro-Hungarians have advanced across the Metalka saddle and south of Priboj.

The Bulgarians are pursuing in the direction of Prizrend.

Berlin, November 26.

TRANSOCEANIC SERVICE. The Bulgarian papers are indignant about the infamous calumnies spread against Bulgarian soldiers by the Entente Press, which pretends, that the Bulgarians have committed cruelties against the Serbians, while the Serbians have violated the international law in numerous cases. The Bulgarian papers point out that Mr. Strobutejew, former Russian Consul General at Uskub and Lady Paget who both refused to leave the city when the Serbians left, are able to prove the Bulgarian assertion. Both personages are actually in Sofia, where Lady Paget is caring for wounded Bulgarian soldiers, while Mr. Strobutejew and his wife are waiting for the time to go home.

The Bulgarian headquarters report of Nov. 22 states that French prisoners of war have said that their officers said that there are cannibals among the Bulgarian troops. On Nov. 19 Bulgarian troops shot down a hydroplane of the enemy near Ferdjik, on the Mariza, north of Enos.

Reports from Constantinople say that the Emir Abdul Melik, a grandson of the famous Abdul Kader, Emir of Algiers, has called all Arab tribes to a Holy war against the French and that a large number of Chieftains, with their tribes, have answered the call. The opinion is general that Abdul Melik will obtain the participation of all tribes there.

These reports coincide with a report of the Spanish paper Imparrial from Tangiers, according to which the Moroccan tribes have attacked the French camp at Krub.

Berlin, Nov. 28.
The Kolnische Zeitung reports from the Balkans that the Serbian army has now been reduced to 80,000 to 100,000 rifles, but they do not represent the same defensive power as before, since entire groups now surrender with their officers in cases, which, in the former better times of the Serbian army would not have been considered hopeless. Furthermore the Serbians are no more defending their own country, thus the majority of their troops from Old Serbia have lost their fanaticism and after a feeble defence of their positions, continue their retreat.

DALES' DUBBIN

THE SECRET OF FOOT EASE
Dales' Dubbin makes the leather soft and pliable, lengthens its life, keeps it thoroughly waterproof.
USE IT ON BOOTS, SADDLES, & HARNESSES
22 Exhibition Market Awards. Over 30 years of experience. Sold in every market. MANUFACTURED AT DUNSTABLE, ENGL.

Crown Medical Hall.

Nos. 54 & 55 New Road,
(Near B. M. C.)

IS MANAGED BY
Dr. C. WILLIAMS.

(Licentiate in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery.)

Special treatment for the following eye diseases:—

Inflammation of the eyes, Aching pain in the eyes, Fleishly growth in the eyes, Imperfect sight, Half sight, Short sight, etc.

Guaranteed Cure for Cataract without operations.

Children are treated free.

CONSULTING HOURS:

From 8 to 11 a.m.

" 3 to 5 p.m.

Charges are Moderate.

Bangkok Mails Close.

HONGKONG.

Thursday 6th 2 p.m. s.s. Hupeh

BATAVIA (JAVA.)

Thurs. 6th 9 a.m. s.s. Kumakata Maru

SINGAPORE.

Friday 7th 5 p.m. s.s. Kuala

HONGKONG via SWATOW

Saturday 8th 2 p.m. s.s. Kanchow

Exchange Rates.

To-day's Quotations.

LONDON—

Bank Bills, demand 1/6 7/16

Bank Bills, 4 months' sight —

PARIS—

Bank Bills, demand —

GERMANY—

Bank Bills, demand —

NEW YORK—

Bank Bills, demand U.S.A. 35 1/2

War Economics.

London, Dec. 25.—M. Ribot in the Chamber announced the results of the loan. Splendid subscriptions amounted to five hundred and eighty sterling, including twenty four millions in London. A feature of the loan has been the vast number of small subscribers. He emphasised that France was entering the market at a moment when the enemy was already showing signs of weariness.

London, Dec. 24.—Rome: The Italian Government has announced a national five per cent. loan, redeemable in 25 years, at the price of 97½.

London, Dec. 24.—Petrograd: M. Sazonoff, in a strong speech to the Budget committee of the Duma, said the relations with Greece were now clear in consequence of the fortification of Salonika, while the occupation of Hamadan and Kum enabled us to scotch German intrigues in Persia. Russia, in future, should adopt a firm attitude towards Persia.

M. Sazonoff emphatically denied the senseless peace rumour, and said that Russia was determined to conduct the war to a victorious end. The committee passed a resolution on the necessity of devoting closer attention to the Persian front in view of the greater importance of the Asiatic theatre resulting from events in the Balkans, and urging M. Sazonoff, besides the military operations, to take direct measures to consolidate Russian influence in Persia.

British Trade.

London, Dec. 23.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, dealing with the position of British industry after the war, intimated that the Board of Trade had made investigations covering practically every department of our commercial life, specially inquiring into the use by Germans of our financial and shipping systems and the ownership of real property by aliens. He pointed out how British trade could be extended to Italy, South America and the East, and emphasised that trade preparations did not mean that we were hankering for peace until the main object of the war had been attained.

Trading with Bangkok German Firm.

London, Dec. 25.—The Gazette has a long list of articles the exportation of which to Switzerland is prohibited except through the Societe De Surveillance Economique, an organisation similar to the Dutch Overseas Trust.

A Bradford stuff merchant has been fined £250 or three months imprisonment for attempting to trade with a German firm in Bangkok through an agent in Switzerland.

Munitions Work.

London, Dec. 24.—Mr. Lloyd George, at Glasgow, received munitions officials and Trades Unionists with whom he had general exchange of opinions regarding the introduction of more unskilled labourers which is at present a most urgent problem.

London, Dec. 24.—Preparations are completed for a great meeting on December 25, at which Mr. Lloyd George will explain to Trade Unionist representatives the need for suspending Unionist regulations.

Our Chance to Economise.

London, Dec. 24.—The Times learns the liner freights from the United Kingdom to all Indian ports will be raised substantially early in the New Year.

The Silver Market.

London, Dec. 23.—Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. report that the silver

market was inanimate throughout the week, a few buying orders from Indian bazaars being set off by China sales. American offerings were distinctly limited. The Continental demand is still in abeyance. The approach of Christmas contributes to the inactivity of the market.

Ford and the War.

London, Dec. 24.—Copenhagen: The National Tidens correspondent at Christiania says that Ford has left with his secretary for Bergen to catch a liner for America. He is going home under doctor's orders to rest his nerves. The expedition has gone to Stockholm and is ignorant of Ford's departure.

London, Dec. 24.—Copenhagen: Ford has not returned to America, but has merely retired to a sanatorium and rejoins the expedition when his health is re-established.

Bergen, Dec. 24.—Mr. Ford has sailed for America. He gave a cheque for a million kroner to finance the expedition in future under a committee of five. It is believed that Mr. Ford recognized that the scheme at present is hopeless when he found that official doors were closed.

Travels of Prince Reuss.

London, Dec. 26.—It appears that Prince Reuss returned to Teheran after an abortive attempt at a "coup d'etat," and subsequently left for Kermanshah, where he met the German emissary von der Goltz and afterwards proceeded to Bagdad, where he met Vassel.

[A Berlin telegram published the other day stated that owing to the absence through illness of Prince Reuss, Consul-General Vassel, diplomatic representative at headquarters in Bagdad, became German Minister at Teheran.]

Peace—and Business.

London, Dec. 30.—A pitiful anticlimax to Ford's peace crusade is the Foreign Office announcement that 4,000 pounds of rubber consigned to a well known enemy forwarding agent in Sweden was seized aboard the Oscar Second.

Russia's Pressure.

Petrograd, Dec. 25.—Some sharp fighting is mentioned in a communique, the Russians repulsing the enemy in an attempt to capture advanced trenches near Bucacz, while the Russians, in the Karontches district, surprised and captured an enemy work held as if planned against desperate counter-attacks.

Workers' Wealth.

London, Dec. 30.—The Trade Union returns show abounding prosperity in all the principal trades. The average wages are higher, unemployment is less than at any time in industrial history. It is estimated that the weekly increase of wages is one and a quarter million sterling.

For Sale.

Furniture and Carriage.

Polished teak dining-room suite, white enamelled teak bed-room suite, Brass bedstead, electric fans etc. etc.

Victoria and pony
apply: R. W. ASTON

The Wireless Road.
Telephone 585.

27—10. J.

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House on the Suriwongse Road presently occupied by Mr. Scheated. Vacant from 16th inst.

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"G. F."
C/o Siam Observer.
t.f.n.

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A good assortment

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New Road,
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The Singapore & Straits

Rough Diary

FOR

1916.

FOR SALE AT

Nai Lert Store.

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BIRTHDAY SUPPLEMENT

and a football Cartoon of R.B.S.C. vs. Siam. Sold at all Booksellers Satang 50 a copy. A specimen copy with advertising rates sent on application.

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Price Tcs. 3,300 only

ON VIEW AT

The Bangkok Dock Motor Garage.

MENAM MOTOR BOAT CO., LTD.

TIME TABLE.

LINE 1—BANGKABUE TO BANG QUANG & MUANG NAWN.

Boats leave Bangkok to Bang Quang, Muang Nawn & Pakret.
a.m. 6.40, 7.30, 8.00, 9.30, 10.30, 11.40, 12.10.

p.m. 1, 1.30, 2.30, 3.10, 3.50, 4.40, 5.30 daily.

Bangkok to Samkuk ... 2.30 p.m. daily.

" " Kai Koh Yai ... 1.00 ...

LINE 2—TANON TOK TO PAKLAT in connection with Paklat Tram Cars Thahin

Boats leave Tanon Tok every full and half hour from 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

After 7.30 when sufficient passengers.

LINE 3—THA CHANG WANG LUANG TO KLONG BANGKOK NOI.

Boats leave Tha Chang wong Luang landing a.m. 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30,

11.30, and 12.30 and p.m. 1.30, 2.30, 3.30 and 4.30 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.

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	*Maha Wong ..	8.40	11.40	2.55	5.55
Bangkok Arr.	7.30	10.30	1.45	4.45	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.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CRUISER FUND.

THEATRE ROYAL DUSIT PARK

On the 12th and 13th January the following plays will be staged in English UNDER THE PATRONAGE AND DIRECTION OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

"A LITTLE FOWL PLAY" (A Farical Comedy in One Act) BY

HAROLD OWEN

PLAYED BY

CHARLES HAWTREY

"A GOOD INTERPRETER" (A Farce in One Act.) (From the French.)

Adapted by SRI AYUDHYA

AND

"A MAN IN KHAKI" An Episode of 1914 (Original Drama in One Act.) BY

SRI AYUDHYA.

PERFORMED BY OFFICIALS IN HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

The whole of the proceeds will be given to the Royal Navy League for the Cruiser Fund, and the cost of production will be defrayed by His Majesty's Privy Purse.

Booking at the Office of the SIAM IMPORT Co., Ltd every day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Sundays and January 1st excepted.

PRICES.

Box (six chairs) Bahts 60.00 Pit ... Bahts 2.00
Reserved Stalls " 5.00 Gallery " " 1.00

Book Early to Avoid Disappointment.

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 "Kioto", "Glenlogan", "Kum Sang",
 "Katori Maru", "Miehima Maru", "Be-
 navon" and "Kamo Maru",
 are hereby notified that same have
 arrived per a.s. "Kuala" on 5th inst.,
 and will be landed and stored at our
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 of the steamer.
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 White Bread, Large and small
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 Fresh Cakes, Plum, Current, Plain,
 Madeira and assorted tea cakes.
 Cakes of all other varieties made
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 Up-to-date Repairs.
 The Siphya workshop is one of the
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 A trial is Solicited. A represen-
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 space in describing the many points of
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 it contains absolutely no narcotics or
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 Everlasting, Indestructible, no expense for
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 A Pontoon in actual service can be inspec-
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 Prices and particulars on application.
 The Bangkok Dock Co., Ltd.

IN STOCK B. M. C. TO-DAY.

FISH	Turkeys	CHEESE
Kippers	Boiled Ham on cut	Gruyere
Filletted Fish	Raw Ham on cut	Roquefort
Dried Codfish	French Ham on cut	Gouda
Codros Caviare		Savoie

Fresh Australian Butter.
 English Margarine.

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OF
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 is often very difficult.
 You will save time, worry and expense,
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 FOR
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 "White Horse"
 AT THIS PRICE ?
 Obtainable Everywhere.



Court Circular.

GRAND PALACE,
 Tuesday, Jan. 4.
 A Scout rally took place this after-
 noon on the occasion of the celebration
 of His Majesty's Natal Day at the Royal
 Plaza, Na Phra Lan, Dusit Park.
 Before the arrival of His Majesty,
 preparations had already been made.
 The King's Own Legion of Scout
 Guards and Scouts of other Legions
 hereafter named, together with the
 Bangkok Boy Scouts were formed in
 columns in the Royal Plaza under the
 command of Scout General Phya
 Prasiddhi Subhakara, A. D. C.
 At 4 p.m. His Majesty the King
 drove in a motor car to the Royal
 Plaza and took his place in the Royal
 Stand. Thereupon at the word of
 command, the columns of the Wild
 Tigers and Boy Scouts headed by the
 Standard of the Honourable Corps of
 Wild Tigers, marched in order of com-
 panies past the Royal Stand and return-
 ed to take up their allotted positions
 facing the Royal Stand.
 At the word of command, the Scouts
 advanced at the double and formed up
 close to the Royal Stand. The order to
 "Present Arms" was given and the
 band played the National Anthem,
 while the Scouts cheered His Majesty
 the King.
 His Majesty was then pleased to
 address them thanking them for the
 honour they did him in his capacity of
 "Scout Chief." His Majesty then
 dwelt on the object of the Corps, name-
 ly as an auxiliary to our military Force.
 Indeed the warrior's profession is a
 noble one, since it aims at the preser-
 vation of peace, and the defence of
 one's country and Religion. And as
 Religion only thrives when the coun-
 try, which own it, enjoys the blessings
 of peace, those who embrace Religion
 have therefore reasons to be grateful
 to the profession which renders pos-
 sible the conditions under which it
 thrives. Far from being an offence
 against the teachings of our Religion,
 The Lord Buddha himself recognised
 the necessity and utility of the profes-
 sion. Finally the Scouts were called
 upon to salute the Standard of the
 Honourable Corps.
 The following is a list of the Scouts
 and Boy Scouts assembled:—
 1. The King's Own Legion of the
 Scout Guards.
 2. The Central Legion.
 3. The Boy Scouts of Bangkok.
 4. The Southern Legion.
 5. The North Western Legion.
 6. The Western Legion.
 7. The Upper Legion.
 8. The Northern Legion.
 After the Address His Majesty was
 graciously pleased to present the seals
 of office of the commanding officers of
 the following Legions:—
 1. The Central Legion.
 2. The Southern Legion.
 3. The North Western Legion.
 4. The Western Legion.
 5. The Upper Legion.
 6. The Northern Legion.
 7. The Eastern Legion.
 8. The South-Eastern Legion.
 After the presentation of the Seals
 His Majesty drove back to the Grand
 Palace.

The following is a list of the
 Scouts and Boy Scouts assembled on
 this occasion:—
 1. The King's Own Legion of the
 Scout Guards.
 2. The Central Legion.
 3. The Boy Scouts of Bangkok.
 4. The Southern Legion.
 5. The Western Legion.
 6. The Upper Legion.
 7. The Northern Legion.
 8. The Eastern Legion.
 9. The South-Eastern Legion.

The B. B. W. N. G.

The total amount realized from the
 Red Cross concert was Tcs. 1,833.08.
 The Committee of the B.B.W.N.G.
 wish to thank all those who contribut-
 ed in any way to make the entertain-
 ment a success, including the per-
 formers, the proprietors of the Phaiha-
 nai Theatre, the British Dispensary,
 who so admirably carried out the book-
 ing arrangements, the local newspapers
 and the above all Mr. T. Slack, who
 was responsible for all the arrange-
 ments and is most certainly to be
 congratulated on the result of his
 labours.
 On account of the International foot-
 ball match which has been fixed for
 Wednesday the 12th., the next meeting
 of the Guild will be held at Mrs.
 Turner's house at 4.40 on Friday the
 14th., and members are asked kindly to
 make a note of the date.

Help the Red Cross.

Monsieur Georges de Plancon, the
 Russian Minister, will hold a reception
 at the Russian Legation on the 7th
 instant at 5.30 p.m. in aid of the Red
 Cross Society when the Russian musi-
 cians M. Piastro and M. Mirovitch will
 give another performance before their
 departure from Bangkok. All desirous
 of hearing these two masters of music
 are invited. There will be no fees
 charged but contributions will be
 gladly accepted.

The University of Siam.

The laying of the foundation stone
 by His Majesty the King on the 31
 instant marks an epoch in the history
 of Siam. Such an interesting ceremony
 requires more than passing notice, but
 the exigencies of space compel us to give
 it only a formal reference. To H. E.
 Phya Dharinasakdi, Under Secretary of
 the Ministry for Education to whom in
 the unavoidable absence of the Minis-
 ter, was cast the duty of carrying out
 the varied programme, we must accord
 a meed of praise for the successful
 function.
 His Majesty arrived in the robes of
 a Barrister-at-law and was received at
 the vestibule by H. R. H. Prince
 Damrong, H. R. H. Prince Chakra-
 bonjee, Chow Phya Abhai Raji, and
 the Under Secretary all wearing either
 legal or academic robes. Passing up
 the large main hall Prince Damrong
 in clear and sonorous tones read a long
 address referring in detail to the work
 of the Civil Service College which now
 is transformed to the University. His
 Majesty made a suitable *extempore* reply
 and then proceeded to carry out the
 laying of the foundation stone. Return-
 ing to the Main Hall Prince Damrong,
 on behalf of the Faculty of the Uni-
 versity, presented His Majesty with in-
 signs of academic rank.
 Thereafter His Majesty was pleased
 to present to the educational staff and
 other special lecturers and past stud-
 ents with silver medallions.
 Later, tea was served and His Majesty
 left to the strains of the band playing
 the National Anthem. The concourse
 of officials and others present was un-
 precedented.

Retiring Foreign
 Officials.

Among those retiring early this year
 after years of good work in this coun-
 try are Messrs. Allegri of the Ministry
 of Communications and Mr. Robyns
 of the Ministry of the Interior. We
 learn that Mr. Allegri's long and faith-
 ful services have been rewarded with a
 generous pension and that in the case of
 Mr. Robyns whose service does not
 date to so far back as twenty five years,
 suitable compensation has been ar-
 ranged for.

Siam vs. England.

Siam's team will be represented by
 the following in the football match to
 be played against England at the Sports
 Club to-morrow:—
 Nai Swasdi,
 Nai Tau, Nai Bhuhin,
 Nai Watna, Nai Tad, (Capt.) Nai Thaem,
 Nai Srinual, Nai An, Nai Chaub,
 Nai Chote, Nai Charun.
 Referee: Mr. D. Robertson.
 K. O. 4.20 p.m.

Tin Mining in Southern
 Siam.

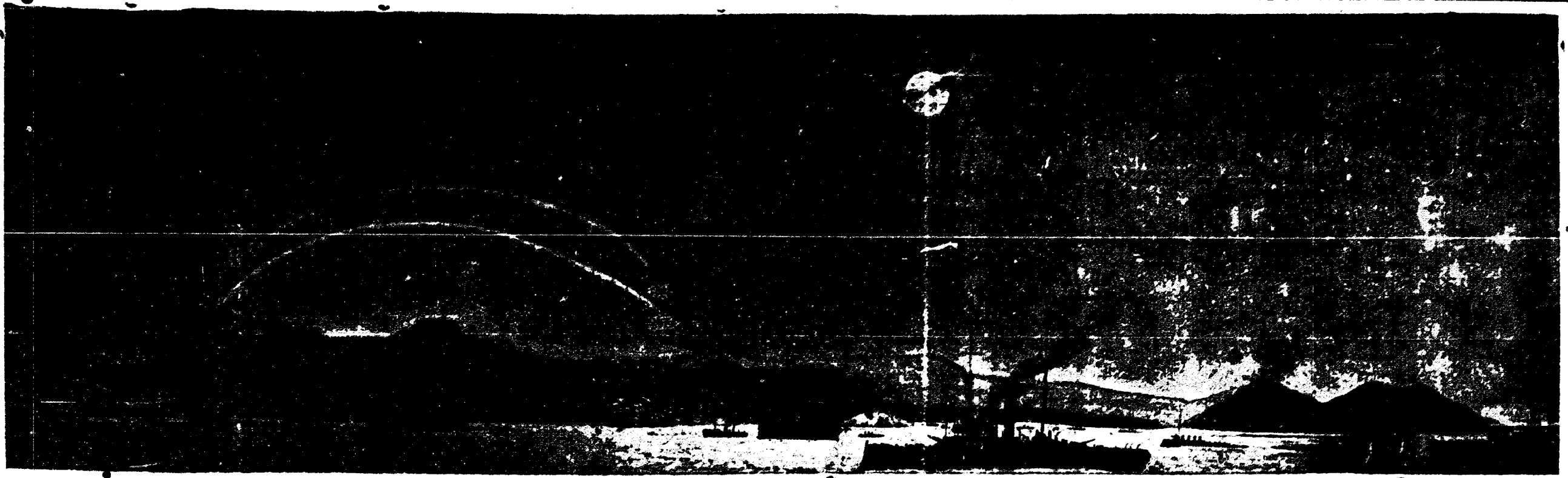
Mr. J. A. Minto, of the Austral-
 Siamese Tin Exploration Co., Ltd., of
 Melbourne, who has been spending
 the holidays in Penang, is returning
 to the scene of his company's opera-
 tions in Southern Siam this week, says
 the Pinang Gazette. The company
 have acquired mining rights over a
 stretch of country in the Nakon dis-
 trict, a few miles from the Ramibrun
 tunnel and railway line, and arrange-
 ments are being made to bring out a
 powerful dredge. This will be the
 first tin dredger to work in the interior
 of Siam, and will no doubt be the
 forerunner of many others as suitable
 spots are located and capital is forth-
 coming.

Disastrous Fire at
 Renong.

We hear that a disastrous fire broke
 out recently at Renong, and gutted a
 considerable portion of the town. Near-
 ly 100 houses were burnt down and
 the damage is estimated at 600,000
 ticals.
 When the flames were first observed
 a strong wind was blowing in the
 direction of the town and the fire
 spread rapidly, most of the houses being
 ataproofed, and very close together.
 There is no fire brigade at Renong,
 and water was thrown from buckets on
 the blaze. A few animals were burnt,
 but, up to-date, we have not heard of
 any loss of life.
 A number of people are homeless and
 rice has been distributed to many of
 them. (P. G.)

Flanders Fighting.

Paris, Dec. 26.—A communiqué
 says: The night was quiet on the
 whole front.
 According to advices received in
 Amsterdam from the Belgian frontier,
 the Germans are carrying out consid-
 erable movements of troops behind the
 front, and are delaying the projected
 attack owing to increasing ignorance
 concerning the numbers and positions
 of the Allies.



What will be the greatest attraction at the Dusit Park Fair? **THE MINIATURE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OF COURSE!!!**

THREE PERFORMANCES EVERY EVENING

AT 6.30, 9.30, AND 11 P.M.

The Naval Band will be in attendance.

Admission to the grounds 1 Baht.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Latest Reuter's telegrams will be found on Page 6.

FOR prices of good official and mercantile paper please see Advertisement on page 7.

THE Post and Telegraph Department reports that all lines are in order.

THE following are the Handicaps for the 6th race on January 8: Lady A 9.2, Nancy 6.10, Warah 7.0, Mad Meg 10.7, Irony 8, Fiirt 8.6.

MRS. G. K. Wright was to leave London by the P. & O. Persia now at the bottom of the sea. She is returning to Bangkok by the s.s. Medina, the steamer following.

THE s.s. "Kuala" will leave from the Borneo Company's Wharf at daylight on Saturday the 8th inst., and should arrive in Singapore on Tuesday about daylight.

FROM Messrs. the Siam Forest Co., agents for the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., we have received two handsome wall calendars.

AS an illustration of the advance in wireless equipment in Ceylon since the first installation was put in, messages have been recorded there from such distant places as Paris and Cornwall.

THE following passengers arrived by the "Kuala" to-day:—Mr. and Mrs. and Madame M. Macorda, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. F. Williamson, Mr. W. G. Johnson, Mr. C. B. Follett, Mr. H. W. Ruter, Mr. F. G. de Jesus and Mr. H. Arathoon.

THERE was a large audience again at the Pathanalai Theatre last night to witness the farewell concert given by M.M. Piastro and Mirovitch. Every item on the programme was greatly appreciated and it is hoped that Bangkok will be favoured with another visit from these two famous artists.

THE death took place last night of Mrs. Loh Kye Jay from long troubles. She was a well-known and respected member of the Chinese Straits born community in Bangkok. She came from Singapore a few years ago and leaves a husband and three children to mourn her loss. The funeral takes place on Sunday at the Straits born Chinese cemetery at Windmill road.

THE mint in Tientsin has been ordered by the Chinese Ministry of Finance to turn out 100,000 silver dollars in commemoration of the inauguration of the new Empire. The Ministry of Communications will print commemoration stamps, these stamps to bear the image of the Emperor. It is reported that the annual expenses of the New Imperial family will be \$3,000,000 yearly.

THE Printing and Engraving Bureau in Peking is now seeking rare jade stones with which to make the Imperial seals of the new Empire. Orders have been issued to the Governors of the provinces, enjoining them to search for the best grades of jade stone. It has been decided that nine Imperial seals be made for the new Empire, all to be of white jade.

NEWSPAPERS throughout the East have been advised from home to the effect that all freights to the East are being advanced 10/- per weight and measurement as ship's option. The price of printing paper of all quantities is advancing by leaps and bounds. Pulp is difficult to obtain and the mills, now that German paper is out of the market, have more orders than they can accept.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the "Siam Observer."

As a Belgian soldier prisoner of war I am sending you a little request.

I was collecting stamps in Belgium and my boy was a beginner; I would like very much to make a collection again.

Having much time to spend here in the camp I should be really happy if you would be so kind as to publish the fact that I, a Belgian prisoner of war, I would be glad to receive some nice stamps for collection sent registered to F. Baudson, 12 de Ligne-camp II. Leist—Holland.

Some American papers have published this letter and I got many stamps from U. S. A.

I am sure that you also will like to help me to pass some hours pleasantly. Begging your pardon for the trouble, I am, dear Sir, with many thanks.

Yours very respectfully

BAUDSON.

Nov. 27th 1915.

Salonika Fortifications.

Italians at Valona.

Athens, Dec. 29.—The following significant statement appears in a pro German paper: "An Austro German attack on Salonika would be useless, because owing to the fortifications the Allies can neither be crushed nor taken prisoners. The only result of a successful Austro-German attack would be the transference of the Anglo-French forces to another front, reinforcing the armies that the Austro Germans already face." This is presumably an inspired argument equivalent to an avowal of non possumus.

London, Dec. 29.—Reuter's correspondent at headquarters at Salonika says that the British lines remind him of the Turkish lines at Chatalja. "But here the valley is considerably broader, and the hills higher than those of the Thracian battle ground. The Allies' lines roughly extend in a wide semicircle from the river Vardar to the Gulf of Phanos, of which half is naturally defended by lakes Langaza and Beshik. The whole is surrounded by a broad valley offering no cover. A girdle of hills guards the approaches to Salonika on which guns command the length and breadth of the valley. On the slopes towards the north are the remains of the trenches where the Turks intended to make their last stand in the first Balkan war. Some of their barbed-wire entanglements are still intact, and have been utilised by us. Our trenches are like those in Flanders and France—deep and narrow. The region is full of historical interest, and the soldiers have developed the collector's spirit, occasionally unearthing coins, statuettes, vases and pottery. I am impressed by the wholehearted confidence of the men to hold the lines. Indeed, they are most eager that the enemy should attempt an advance."

Paris, Dec. 29.—It is reported at Salonika that detachments of the Italian army at Valona were approaching the frontier at Epirus.

M. Venezelos' Name-Day.

Athens, Dec. 29.—On the occasion of the name day of M. Venezelos, thousands of citizens of all classes, representatives of various corporations, and diplomats, called to congratulate the ex-Premier.

Replying to an address from the trade representatives, M. Venezelos dwelt on the Bulgarian danger and the importance of the Allies remaining at Salonika.

France Confident.

Paris, Dec. 29.—French optimism as to the outcome of the war was voiced by General Gallieni in the Senate on the occasion of the passage of the Bill authorising the calling out of the 1917 recruits.

"France, who eighteen months ago wanted peace, to-day wants war, with her whole energy. Anyone who utters the word peace is regarded as a bad citizen. The great struggle will only end when France, with the Allies, is in a position to say: 'I stop. Having obtained what I wanted, I resume my peace time labours.'"

M. Gervais, reporter on the Bill, said that the Army Committee had examined the question of effectives and had come to the conclusion that there was no ground for anxiety. France had plenty of men to last to the end.

The Communiques.

There has been a lively cannonade between Fetz and Thur, very violent in the region of Hartmannswillerkopf, where the French despite of violent counter-attacks, remained masters of a series of German works between Reh-felson and Hirsstein. In addition to the trenches already carried the French captured 300 prisoners since yesterday.

The total prisoners since beginning of these operations is 1,668. The German prisoners report their losses to be considerable.

London, Dec. 29.—Sir Douglas Haig in an official statement says that the enemy unsuccessfully attacked one of our aerodromes on Dec. 28. Of four machines only two reached their objective, doing no damage. One of our aeroplanes was shot down.

A successful enterprise was carried out at night near Armentieres when the enemy's trenches were entered and bombed with good effect and numerous casualties were inflicted. Our casualties were very slight.

After ten minutes the party withdrew. Our artillery was again effective to-day against the trenches and billets in many places between Mametz and Monchy. The enemy exploded two small mines near Givenchy, doing no damage to troops or trenches. The day was quiet South of La Bassée Canal. There was heavy reciprocal bombardment about Ypres.

Russia and Japan.

Petrograd, Dec. 29.—The Grand Duke George Michaelovitch has left for Tokio to convey the Tsar's greetings to the Emperor on the occasion of the latter's coronation.

Tripolitan Fighting.

Cairo, Dec. 29.—A strong column of all arms of the western frontier force marched out to Mirsamratu on Christmas morning to drive back the Tripolitan force which had encamped in the valley eight miles westward. Our casualties were slight. A reconnaissance previously encountered the enemy on the 11th and 12th, with the result that the enemy sustained three hundred casualties.

Cairo, Dec. 28.—The operations on the 25th were completely successful. A Tripolitan force three thousand strong was driven back near Mirsamratu, leaving over two hundred dead. Gunfire from ships afforded effective support.

Fierce Montenegrin Fighting.

London, Dec. 30.—A Montenegrin communique says that the Austrian forts and fleet bombarded Montenegrin positions near Mount Lovcen and pounded the Montenegrins for fifteen hours with 2,000 heavy shells. Simultaneously they launched determined infantry attacks, all of which were repulsed. The Montenegrins had two killed and two wounded. The Austrians lost 2,000 in a great fight at Lepenatz on Dec. 23rd. The King congratulated his troops.

Petrograd, Dec. 29.—Minor encounters took place on the different fronts in which the Germans were worsted.

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Submarine Warfare.

Another Japanese Steamer Sunk.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, Jan. 4.

Mr Mc Neeley, the American Consul at Aden, was drowned with the sinking of the s.s. Persia.

The British steamer Glenzyle (9,000 tons) and the Japanese steamer Kenkoku Maru (2,000 tons) have been sunk probably by the same submarine which sank the Persia.

The Cameroons.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, Jan. 4.

An official message says that Colonel Georges occupied Jaunde in the Cameroons on the 1st instant.

In Belgium.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, Jan. 4.

A Paris communiqué reports continued artillery activity in Belgium.

Labour Members.

London, Dec. 30.—A meeting of the labour leaders is hurriedly summoned for tomorrow to consider the recruiting position.

At a special meeting of the joint labour recruiting committee to-day it is understood that several members demanded the calling of a national conference of trade unions before the House of Commons meets, being of opinion that there is no necessity for the Cabinet's decision. They declare that sixty per cent. of the unattesteds are not fit and that twenty per cent. are starved.

The Westminster Gazette later edition says that it is improbable that Mr. Henderson will resign.

Rumors that other ministers will resign may be dismissed.

Mr. Balfour is certainly no longer opposed to compulsion.

The Armet Question.

London, Dec. 30.—The King in a letter to Lord Derby hopes that now the appeal to recruits is over, everyone entitled to wear an armet will do so.

Lord Haldane.

Mr. Asquith on the Mission to Berlin in 1912.

The Prime Minister in Nov. 25th Parliamentary papers makes a statement regarding Lord Haldane's mission to Berlin in 1912.

Mr. Leicester Harmsworth had asked Mr. Asquith whether he could now issue, without prejudice to the public interest, a statement of the definite objects of the mission of the ex-Lord Chancellor, and any despatches, from, or report by, the noble lord thereon.

The Prime Minister says in a written answer: In January 1912 an intimation reached his Majesty's Government from Berlin, informally, that it was desirable that a British Minister should visit the German capital, with a view to a private and an unofficial interchange of opinions. His Majesty's Government, after consideration, approved of the suggestion. As the result the Cabinet proposed to Lord Haldane that he should go to Berlin informally and undertake this mission, and Lord Haldane agreed to go. Lord Haldane received full instructions from the Foreign Secretary and from the Cabinet, and carried out his mission accordingly to their entire satisfaction. It is not proposed, nor would it be in the public interest at the moment, to add to the statement that appeared in the Press on September 1.

Persia.

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—Details of the defeat of the Persian gendarmes rebels at Rabatkerim, twenty-five miles southwest of Teheran, show that the Russians, learning of the arrival at Rabatkerim of a band of a thousand horsemen under the wellknown Emir Khishmet, sent a detachment on Tuesday night in order to surprise and destroy them. The Russians found two battalions of gendarmes, five-hundred horsemen, and two-hundred Bakhtiari; holding a fortified mountain fastness. They were received with a violent fire, and after an artillery preparation the whole Russian force attacked and routed the rebels, a hundred and eighteen of whom were sabred during the pursuit.

The Actuarial Figures.

London, Dec. 27.—Shipping statistics show that while actuarially estimated at the beginning of war, the losses of the British Mercantile Marine would be ten millions sterling, the actual losses aggregated £2,732,000. The total losses for sixteen months average six centum of the declared values.

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The Alternative.

Lloyd George Speaks Out.

London, Dec. 26.—At the meeting with Trades Unionists and foremen of works at Glasgow, Mr. Lloyd George said he came on behalf of Government, at the request of the British army, to arrange for the manufacture of big guns and projectiles, and "we need your help." When Mr. Lloyd George mentioned that the committee which proposed dilution [of skilled with unskilled labour] included seven Trade Unionists, he was interrupted with some cries of "We don't trust Trade Union Leaders," and when he emphasised the necessity of securing eighty thousand skilled workmen for state munition factories, a voice shouted "You won't get them."

Thereupon Mr. Lloyd George said: "I have come to face three thousand Trade Unionists. Will the interrupter venture to Flanders and face three thousand British soldiers in the trenches?" (Prolonged cheers).

After paying a tribute to the French resistance to the German machine, as a result of the cooperation of French workmen, Mr. Lloyd George dwelt on the excellent work he had recently seen done by women. He said that if men failed to adhere to the Government's dilution programme, two alternatives remained: Either to tell the soldiers that it was impossible to get guns to enable them to win in 1916, or tell the Kaiser frankly that we cannot continue. He might let us off with the annexation of Belgium, and the payment of an indemnity, with a British Colony or two, but he would certainly demand that Great Britain surrender her command of the sea. Then Great Britain would be as completely at the mercy of Prussian despotism as Belgium.

Mr. Lloyd George, dwelling on the necessity of haste, mentioned that there had been three hundred thousand casualties since the agreement of the Trade Unions with the Government last March. He said that if the workmen helped thoroughly and quickly this would strengthen their claim upon the British people, and end the war for the redress of grievances. He concluded by wondering if people realised that this war was a convulsion of nature heaving up the very rocks of European life. He said: "All this chaffering about relaxing rules and customs is out of place. You cannot haggle with an earthquake."

Mr. Lloyd George after the meeting had a satisfactory conference with the local officials of the Amalgamated Engineers with a view to definite immediate action for dilution.

Mr. Lloyd George also said that he had come to submit proposals on whose acceptance depended not only victory, but the saving of numberless lives. It was impossible for him to report through Parliament to the British army, that the skilled workmen refused to suspend their rules to save fellow workmen's lives on the battlefield. He refused to believe that British workmen were less patriotic than French, whose devotion and self-sacrifice would enable France successfully to withstand the terrible machine which with the aid of German workmen had scored a great victory over the Prussians. But time was vital. Help must be given without delay.

Castelnau and Constantine.

Athens, Dec. 26.—General Castelnau has been received by King Constantine and met the heads of the Greek General Staff at luncheon at the French Legation. General Castelnau again departed in the afternoon.

Germany's Finances.

London, Dec.—27.—Mr. E. S. Montagu, interviewed by the correspon-

dent of the "New York Tribune," instituted a very favourable comparison between Britain's and Germany's financial positions. He contrasted scathingly Dr. Helfferich's hysterics and M. Ribot's unvarnished account of the French loan results. Germany threw everything into the scale to strike a decisive blow before our preparations could bear fruit. She struck and failed. He pointed out that while British exchange with America had been restored and was steadier, German exchange was falling to a vanishing point.

Germany had realised all her available assets in the shape of negotiable foreign securities and had suspended specie payments. If this happened in the present conditions what would be the value of the mark when peace comes? The German importer wants to re-stock his empty larder and storehouses and tries to exchange depreciated paper for overseas goods. Germany made no provision for the payment of interest on her war loans. Moreover Austria's financial ruin was already complete. Germany was sucked dry. If she emerges from the war in the same state as after the Thirty Years War we should be able to hang up our swords without anxiety for the rest of this century.

Some General News.

New York, Dec. 25.—It is reported that a revolutionary movement has broken out in Yunnan under the military ex-governor. Thirty thousand troops have been sent to quell the outbreak.

London, December 24.—Johannesburg: The Imperial Government has asked for a second company of Indian Ambulance men for service overseas, and recruits are now being enrolled. The first contingent of Indians left Durban for Europe on December 17.

London, December 24.—Sir Ernest Cassel has made a Christmas gift to the British Red Cross Society of £25,000 War Loan stock.

London, December 24.—New York: Paul Koenig and Lyndicker have been committed for trial for organizing in the United States a military enterprise against Canada. The Irishman, Justice, has also been committed for trial.

Amsterdam, Dec 25.—From Berlin: further publication of the Zukunft is forbidden.

London, December 25.—Mr J. C. Wedgwood, M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, has sailed for East Africa.

London, December 23.—Parliament has adjourned till January 4.

London, December 24.—The King and the Royal Family have gone to Sandringham for Christmas.

London, December 24.—Stockholm: Germany has apologised for the seizure of the Swedish steamer Argo in Swedish waters.

London, December 23.—Melbourne: The Hon Mr Hughes, Premier of the Commonwealth, has announced that two hundred thousand tons of wheat have been sold to the British and French Governments.

London, December 23.—The Hon Mr A. Fisher ex-Federal Premier, has left for London. He was given an enthusiastic farewell.

London, December 23.—It appears that the report that Sarah Bernhardt was dangerously ill was greatly exaggerated. She is now perfectly well.

London, Dec 24.—The Hague. The Second Chamber has voted an extraordinary war credit of fifty million florins.

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Single Shirkers.

London, Dec. 29.—The Westminster Gazette says that the number of unattested single men is much greater than was anticipated, amounting to six hundred and fifty thousand, very few of whom are in Government starred or indispensable industries. But the decision of the Government to apply compulsion immediately will not lead to the break up of the Government or a General Election. Possibly one or two Ministers will resign, but it is more likely that Mr. Asquith will convince all his colleagues of the necessity of the step. A small minority in the House of Commons will fight the proposal, but uselessly, as the opposition will not extend beyond two hundred Liberals and a considerable section of the Labour members, whom some quarters claim as anti-compulsion advocates.

The Times and the Daily Mail also declare that a definite decision was reached at yesterday's Cabinet that Mr. Asquith's pledge should be redeemed immediately, and that the principle of compulsion should be accepted.

The Daily News says that the Cabinet identified itself strongly with Mr. Asquith's pledge to the married men. The situation is delicate, but it is hoped that a crisis may be averted.

The newspapers generally agree that the Cabinet was not unanimous, but it is stated that the minority may accept the decision in order to preserve unity in this connection.

The position of Mr. Henderson is interesting, as the representative of La-

bour. It is understood that he regarded himself as committed against Conscription, and any how will certainly consult his political associates. It is remarked that the Labour party never bound Mr. Henderson on the question.

The Daily Chronicle states that as regards the unattested some of the members of the Cabinet desired a further voluntary effort to bring in these, but Lord Derby was strongly averse, as also was Mr. Asquith. The Chronicle adds that the total figure comprises many engaged in essential industries, and there are numerous cases of the son being the breadwinner.

London, Dec. 26.—It is stated that the Cabinet decision in favour of immediate compulsion in the case of unattested unmarried men was opposed by Mr. McKenna and Mr. Runciman, who believe the Government plan to be to the prejudice of trade and finance. Their resignation is possible.

The Westminster Gazette says that Mr. Asquith's redemption of his pledge was never doubtful. The only question was as to the giving of a further chance to the Derby scheme.

Mr. Lloyd George strenuously opposed further delay. His belief that it was necessary to take immediate action largely contributed to the Cabinet's decision, which was unhesitatingly supported by the great majority of the Ministers.

All questions arising out of the decision have been thoroughly explored, and the Government claims that munitions, exports and finance have not been forgotten.



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