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The Siam Observer.

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FIRST DAILY TO BE PUBLISHED IN SIAM.

VOL. 43. NO. 83

BANGKOK WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1917

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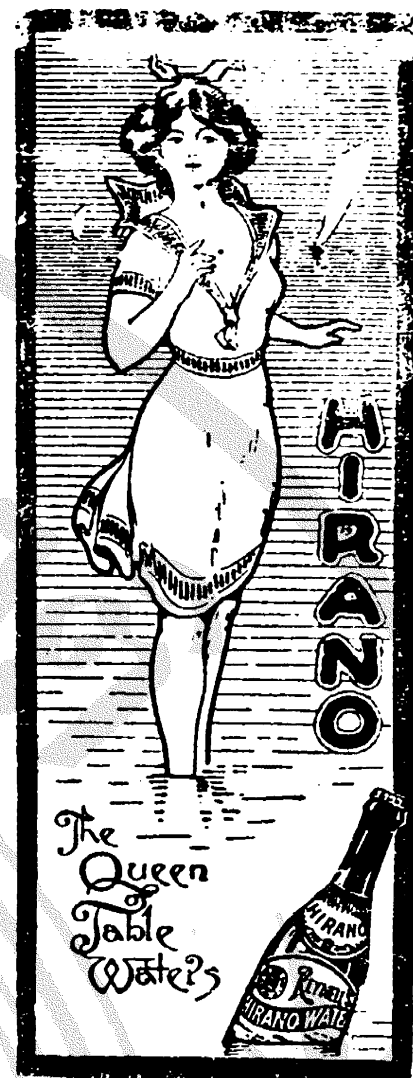
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Departures from Bangkok

s.s. "Asdang"	14 . 4 . 17 .
s.s. "Boriba"	21 . 4 . 17 .
s.s. "Prachatipok"	28 . 4 . 17 .
s.s. "Asdang"	5 . 5 . 17 .

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CHIEF MANAGER.
N. J. STABBS.

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Bangkok, July 1, 1909.

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Hankow Singapore
Hanoi Papeete
Hongkong Tientsin
Noumea Tourane
Montze Djibouti
Pekin

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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Phya Boribun Raja Kosakorn
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A. Willeke, Esq.

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.

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.
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A. WILLEKE,

Actg. Manager,

Bangkok, March 27, 1909.

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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 March 1917.

Mar.	A.M.			Feet.
	H. W.	Ft. & in.	L. W. (Approx.)	
1	7 00	11 4	...	...
2	7 00	11 2	...	...
3	7 00	11 0	...	...
4	6 50	10 4	...	...
5	6 40	10 0	...	...
6	6 30	9 40	...	...
7	6 20	9 20	...	...
8	6 10	9 00	...	...
9	6 00	8 40	...	...
10	5 50	8 20	...	...
11	5 40	8 00	...	...
12	5 30	7 40	...	...
13	5 20	7 20	...	...
14	5 10	7 00	...	...
15	5 00	6 40	...	...
16	4 50	6 20	...	...
17	4 40	6 00	...	...
18	4 30	5 40	...	...
19	4 20	5 20	...	...
20	4 10	5 00	...	...
21	4 00	4 40	...	...
22	3 50	4 20	...	...
23	3 40	4 00	...	...
24	3 30	3 40	...	...
25	3 20	3 20	...	...
26	3 10	3 00	...	...
27	3 00	2 40	...	...
28	2 50	2 20	...	...
29	2 40	2 00	...	...
30	2 30	1 40	...	...
31	2 20	1 20	...	...

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

PHASES OF THE MOON.

Mar. 9th O Full Moon 4 h 40 m a.m.
" 16th (Last Quarter) 7 h 15 m p.m.
" 23rd O New Moon 10 h 47 m a.m.
" 28th) First Quarter 5 h 18 m p.m.

LIFE'S GOODWIN SANDS.

The "Goodwin Sands" of life are the years between twelve and twenty-one. Then every weakness implanted in the system by heredity, or acquired since birth, has its more malicious influence, for during these years both growth and development are rapid.

Between twelve and twenty-one, youths and girls need the frequent help of new blood; neglect in these critical years may lead to serious consequences, the most common being St. Vitus' Dance and decline, with a future of wrecked manhood or unhealthy womanhood. Whenever a child grows pale and nervous, loses flesh and appetite, and complains of "growing pains," remember he or she is undergoing a complex and wonderful change, the successful issue depending upon the state of the child's blood.

If you have reason to suspect any hereditary weakness, if there is pallor, languor, lack of appetite, headache, palpitations, and pains in the joints and limbs, give your son or daughter at once the new blood needed. Nothing for the purpose is more useful and prompt than Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

The British Dispensary, Bangkok, sole wholesale agents for Siam, price 1 bottle Tics. 2.25 or 6 bottles Tics. 12/-

Write to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Singapore, for free booklet on the Blood

Bangkok Mails Close.

HONGKONG.
Thursday 12th 3 p.m. s.s. Hupeh

HONGKONG.
Saturday 14th 2 p.m. s.s. Chihhua

Exchange Rates.

To-day's Quotations.

LONDON—
Bank Bills, demand 1/6 7/16
Bank Bills, 3 months' sight
PARIS—
Bank Bills, demand —
GERMANY—
Bank Bills, demand —
NEW YORK—
Bank Bills, demand U.S. A.
INDIA—
Bank Bills, demand —
SINGAPORE—
Bank Bills, demand \$65 1/2
HONGKONG—
Bank Bills, demand \$ 65
YOKOHAMA & KOBE...
Bank Bills, demand, Y70 3/8
NOTE:—The rate of Interest on Advance Bills has been reduced to 6 per cent. per annum.
Equivalent of Exchange demand London in Siamese Currency:—
Tos. 12.08.—(Bank Rate.)

THE
Siam Observer.

THE OLDEST AND LEADING DAILY

NEWSPAPER IN SIAM.

Eight-Page English

Edition.

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per mensem for

English Edition.

Ticals 25 per annum for

Siamese Edition.

"Weekly Mail"

(WEEKLY EDITION IN ENGLISH)

Ticals 20 per annum.

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WEEKLY EDITION IN SIAMESE)

Ticals 12 per annum

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PER INCH.

One insertion Tos. 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.

"O-Pip."

Most Dangerous Post at the Front.

Perils of the work of the F.O.O., or Forward Observation Officer in the "O-Pip" or Observation Post with the artillery, are graphically described by Mr. C. G. D. Roberts for the Canadian War Records.

It has been said that every one of our F.O.O.s ought to have the V.C. or Military Cross, he writes, and the proposition might well be extended to include his telephonist, who crouches or lies beside him in his lonely post of peril, and his linesman who wanders ceaselessly up and down the naked expanse of the open, under the storm of shells and bullets, repairing the wire by which he sends back his directions to the guns.

Here is an instance from one of our recent battles on the Somme. The wire to one observation post, over a peculiarly dangerous piece of open, was being cut by shell continuously. Linesman after linesman was killed in the effort to keep it repaired. The job, just here, seemed one of certain death.

The Last Man.

The communication had to be maintained at all costs for the advance of the infantry was depending on the exact and immediate support of the guns behind it. At last the battery concerned had but one linesman left to send out, and he, though he knew his job thoroughly, was a youngster newly arrived at the front, without experience of doing his work under fire.

There was no time to get an old hand from another battery, so he was sent out alone, from the security of the dug-out into that screaming hell. No one could follow his progress through the night but it was soon evident that he had succeeded, for the broken communication was restored.

It was maintained throughout the rest of the battle. In the morning when our object had been gained and the lad could be relieved, it was found that the task of keeping his wire mended had not been sufficient to absorb his zeal and energy.

He had found the shattered remnant of one of his predecessors, buried him in a shell hole, and marked the spot with two bits of stick whipped together into the form of a cross. He had also found another of his mates, wounded, had bandaged his wounds, and deposited him in the partial shelter of another shell hole to await the coming of the stretcher-bearers.

The point where the F.O.O. performs his perilous duties is known as "O-Pip," which stands for observation post. The "O-Pip" may be some distance behind the front trenches. It may be at some advantageous point in those trenches themselves. It may even be out beyond them in the scarred, tormented wastes of No Man's Land.

Mark for Shells.

If "O-Pip" is well behind the firing line it must be on some well-elevated point whence a clear view may be obtained of the enemy's position and the fall of every shell in the area concerned exactly located. Such a point may be a fragment of a battered chateau or a factory chimney threatening to fall at any moment through concussion, even if it escapes a direct hit. It may be a tree-top, though it is rare indeed to find a tree nowadays in the battle area that has any top left or any remnant of branch to roost upon. Such trees as the shell storm has left standing are nothing more than stripped and splintered trunks.

It may be merely some bit of higher ground which affords the required lookout. But the spot which com-

mands a view of the enemy naturally can be viewed in turn by the enemy. It proclaims itself as at least a potential "O-Pip," and is treated as such even though the observer who occupies it may be himself concealed. If near enough it will receive the sleepless attention of the sniper, and will be raked from time to time by the implacable hail of the machine-gun.

If it is on a knoll that knoll will be dosed every now and then with high explosive, known familiarly as "H.E." till it looks like a miniature volcano, and at such times the F.O.O. and his signaller, if there is anything left of them, will indignantly withdraw from the post, to return to the wreckage when the storm has lulled.

If it is situated somewhere on a ridge, the enemy's shells will feel along that ridge for it from end to end, and with the most reasonable prospect of finding it sooner or later. If it is further back, in tower or windmill or chimney, then it becomes a favourite target of the enemy's "heavies," to be potted at by those great shells which roar through the air like a train through a tunnel.

"Busman's Holiday."

In none of these cases is it a position to be recommended for the health. Yet I know an ind-fatigable C.O. in the Canadian transport service whose idea of relaxation seems to be (when he can get a few hours off) to go up to the most advanced "O-Pip" and take over the task of the F.O.O.

In such conditions the observation officer is expected to remain cool, undisturbed, unforgoingly alert for twenty-four hours at a stretch, registering for his guns and correcting their fire by reference to the map locations with an exactitude which comes within a very foot of what might be accomplished by a surveyor on the actual ground.

Then if he has luck, he is relieved; and if so be that the "O-Pip" which he is occupying is an advanced one—a miry shell-hole in No Man's Land or a corner of the front trench—the journey back to his dug-out may well be even more perilous than the post which he is leaving.

Besides the ceaseless peril under which the F.O.O.s carry on their duties there is the crushing responsibility which attends their action. If they observe inaccurately, if they report their observation or give their instructions incorrectly, the guns for which they serve as eye may hurl their destruction upon our own lines.

THE FRUIT SEASON.

Bowel complaint is sure to be prevalent during the fruit season. Be sure to keep a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy on hand. It may save a life. For sale by the British Dispensary.

NOW ON SALE

The Popular

DATE BLOCKS

FOR

1917

Published by

The Siam Observer

In English, Siamese & Chinese

PRICE

Tcs. 1-50 only

per block.

ROYAL STATE RAILWAYS.

(Broad Gauge Lines.)

TIME TABLE

In force from 1st April, 1916.

Bangkok	Dep.	a.m. 7.—	a.m. 9.48	p.m. 1.25	p.m. 3.33	Lampang	Dep.	...	...	a.m. 7.33
Ayuthia	Arr.	9.3	11.41	3.33	5.45	Den Chai	"	...	...	p.m. 12.38
Ban Phaji	Arr.	9.47	12.30	4.24	6.30	Tha Sao	"	...	...	a.m. 7.1
						Utaradit	"	...	...	p.m. 7.18
						Ban Dara	Arr.	...	...	a.m. 8.16
Ban Phaji	Dep.	a.m. 9.57	p.m. 12.37	p.m. 4.30	...	Sawaloike	Dep.	...	...	p.m. 7.—
Lopburi	Arr.	11.5	1.55	5.48	...	Ban Dara	Arr.	...	...	a.m. 8.1
Chengkhet	Dep.	p.m. 12.35	a.m. 3.38	...	7.25					
Pak'poh	Arr.	2.17	5.40	...	9.54	Ban Dara	Dep.	...	...	p.m. 8.24
						Pitsaloike	Arr.	...	...	a.m. 10.43
Pak'poh	Dep.	p.m. 2.26	a.m. 6.30	...	...			
Pitsaloike	Arr.	6.	11.5	...	...	Pitsaloike	Dep.	...	...	p.m. 1.45
						Pak'poh	Arr.	...	...	a.m. 7.—
Pitsaloike	Dep.	a.m. 7.4	p.m. 2.2	...	...			
Ban Dara	Arr.	9.5	4.18	...	...	Ban Phaji	Dep.	...	...	p.m. 3.52
						S'kaloke	Dep.	...	...	a.m. 7.20
Ban Dara	Dep.	a.m. 9.20	p.m. 4.40	...	...			
S'kaloke	Arr.	10.21	5.41	...	...	Chengkhet	Arr.	6.21	...	p.m. 9.22
						Lopburi	Dep.	...	...	a.m. 7.10
Ban Dara	Dep.	a.m. 9.10	p.m. 4.26	...	...			
Utaradit	"	10.6	5.29	...	...	Ban Phaji	Arr.	...	...	p.m. 8.30
Tha Sao	"	10.15	5.23	...	...			
Den Chai	"	11.57	...	...	...	Korat	Dep.	p.m. 3.57	a.m. 7.—	p.m. 7.—
						Lat Bua Kao	Ar	5.55	...	a.m. 8.40
Lampang	"	4.52	...	...	...	Gengkoi	Dep.	...	...	p.m. 7.12
Ban Phaji	Dep.	a.m. 10.—	p.m. 12.30	p.m. 4.41	a.m. ...	Ban Phaji	Arr.	...	...	p.m. 8.22
Gengkoi	Arr.	11.7	1.26	5.51	...					
Lat Bua Kao										
	Dep.	...	4.2	...	8.2	Ban Phaji	Dep.	a.m. 6.27	a.m. 8.37	p.m. 12.44
Korat	"	...	6.8	...	10.3	Ayuthia	"	7.13	9.25	p.m. 1.23
						Bangkok	Arr.	9.28	11.35	a.m. 3.16
Bangkok	Dep.	a 7.45	...	...	3.50	Petrien	Dep.	a.m. 7.50	...	...
Petrien	Arr.	9.33	...	...	5.38	Bangkok	Arr.	9.38	...	a.m. 5.45

A New Era.

A Review and a Forecast.

(By the Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey, M.P.
Prime Minister of New Zealand.)

Wars. It has been well said, are the birthpangs of new eras. The truth of this dictum seems likely to be strikingly verified in the experience of the present generation. Evidence of its approaching fulfilment is fast accumulating on every side. No thoughtful observer of the trend of the times can fail to perceive the immense and far-reaching social, economic, and political changes—some of them almost revolutionary in character—which have been literally forced upon us by the war. A marvellous transformation in the so-called civilised world has been witnessed during the last two years. The war has altered the old order of things out of all recognition. Not only has it clarified our vision and broadened our horizon; it has also given us a new standpoint. We see many things in a clearer light and a truer perspective. Forces have been let loose which can never again be shackled without serious detriment to individual, national, and Imperial life.

A new spirit, strongly democratic in its essence, now permeates the whole of our social system, bringing in its train a remarkable and what would have been considered a few years ago an impossible mutation in the relative positions of "the classes and the masses." Many prejudices have been abandoned; many old privileges of rank have been voluntarily surrendered; and other distinctions and inequalities which had long stood as an apparently insurmountable and immovable barrier between rich and poor, high and low, have been swept away. And it is noteworthy that these radical changes, whose full effects and consequences we cannot yet appraise, far from being the outcome of the blind unreasoning fury of a revolutionary mob, are voluntary adjustments made by all classes who in the presence of an unprecedented national danger realized their essential unity and equality of citizenship. Within the short space of two years war has advanced the cause of true democracy far more than the teachings of radical philosophers and the agitations of still more radical politicians have done in two centuries.

The change wrought in our industrial system during the same brief period, though different in character, is not less remarkable in its effects and suggestive in its potentialities. The change may not be permanent in all its phases; indeed, it is more than probable that

in some spheres of activity we shall revert to pre-war normal conditions, for several of the most remarkable phenomena in the industrial situation as it presents itself to-day are due to transitory causes, the effect of which will cease with the war or when the inevitable readjustment of labour takes place. It will, however, be impossible, I believe, as well as undesirable, to revert entirely to the old order. One of the most illuminating and valuable lessons taught us by the war is, how a wise utilisation of woman-power in certain spheres of activity will release a vast amount of man-power for the development of those resources which offer the best security for the future progress and prosperity, not only of the individual, but also of the nation and the Empire. Men will demand and receive a larger measure of the products of their toil. The dignity, as well as the reward, of labour will be raised, and the stress of competition will be lessened by the opening of broader fields of opportunity. With the advent of peace there will dawn a new era of industrial prosperity, based on co-operation.

But the most significant sign of the time which, if its promise be fulfilled, will give strength and stability to the social and industrial changes I have mentioned, is the extraordinary development of Imperial sentiment. The British Empire has never been so united as it is to-day. The very forces which the enemy set in motion with the delusive hope of shattering it or driving it asunder have only served to knit it more firmly together. We all of us as citizens of the Empire realise to-day as we have never realised before our common perils, powers, and possibilities. The war has revealed the weak joints in our Imperial armour; but it has also shown the State artificers how to remedy these defects. It is for the people to decide whether they shall be made good.

Socially and industrially we stand, I believe, on the threshold of a new era. I venture to predict of the Motherland that—to adapt Tennyson—through the shadow of the war she will sweep into a brighter day. And not of the Motherland alone, but the Empire. For when the curtain has been rung down on this world-carnival of death, it will, I hope, soon rise again on a scene of peace, showing those who have fought for the Empire working side by side to strengthen that unity which some of their kindred and comrades have cemented with their blood.—P. M. G.

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The Siam Observer

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1917.

A SEA LEAGUE.

The step taken by the United States
of America in declaring war and taking
her stand by the Allies is likely to
have far-reaching effects after the war
is over, as it will probably result in a
Sea League between America and
Great Britain. Such a league would
be one of the best things that could
happen for the world, as it would to
a very large extent constitute a guaran-
tee for future peace. It would make
both America and Britain invulnerable
to attack. It is difficult to conceive of
any combination which could be
formed against them for aggressive
objects with any hope of success. Such
a league would ensure the freedom of
the seas for all nations, and the whole
world would welcome it. The political
consequences of the war must inevitably
be very great. It is not impossible that
we shall see formed a great European
confederation, to which every nation
will ally itself with a view to the pre-
servation of peace and the advance-
ment of civilisation in its best sense.
It is only by a mutual combination of
this kind that peace in the future can be
ensured. The Hague Tribunal was an
excellent thing in its inception, but it
was purely idealistic and had no real
influence. The *sine qua non* for any
tribunal of the kind is that it shall
have at its disposal the means to en-
force its decisions. To establish these
means is the essential consideration.
When feelings run high, as they will
do sometimes between nations just as
between individuals, it will take more
than a nebulous theory to prevent one or
the other side from carrying will into
action. In a difference of opinion be-
tween two parties neither may be right,
but given that the opinion is founded
upon sincerity, each will have the cour-
age of its convictions and be firm in
upholding them. But if both cases are
submitted by joint consent for im-
partial consideration it is not improb-
able that the bone of contention may
be disintegrated, or, indeed, on close
examination prove to have had only an
illusory existence. This, of course, is
the argument in favour of arbitration,
and it is amply supported by common-
sense. That the principle of arbitra-
tion is thoroughly sound no one of in-
telligence would deny. Arbitration is
the basis of jurisprudence. But
for law to be put into force it
is necessary that it should
have the power and authority of
the State behind it. In the same
way, for an international tribunal to
be capable of executing its verdicts it
must have at its back the might to do
so. The problem is how to acquire
and establish this might. The sugges-
tion has been made that a sort of
international gendarmerie should be
formed, and maintained at sufficient
strength to provide the requisite weight
to uphold the decisions of the world-
tribunal. If this can be accomplished
so much the better. There are prac-
tical difficulties of no light character
in the way, but these can be
surmounted, given the will to do
so. Humanity is divided into nations
each with its own interests and ambi-
tions, but nevertheless, all have an as-
piration in common, and that is the

raising of mankind to an increasing-
ly higher level. A league that will secure
the freedom of the seas in perpetuity
for all would give a stable foundation
for a confederacy of nations, and it
seems not unlikely that we shall see
such a league come into being. There-
after men may be able to say of the
comity of nations, in the words of the
Psalmist, "He hath founded it upon
the seas and established it upon the
floods."

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MESSRS the Siam Import Co., Ltd.,
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THE s.s. *Maia Hari* is expected to
arrive on Thursday morning 12th April
to load for Singapore direct.

THE s.s. *Kolong* left Singapore at 8
a.m. on Monday the 9th inst., and may
be expected to arrive at the Borneo
Company's wharf on Thursday morn-
ing about 9 a.m.

Six cases of bubonic plague were
reported to the Medical Officer of
Health as having occurred in Bangkok
during the week ended 7th April. Of
these five ended fatally. There were
no cases of cholera or small-pox during
this period.

THE Post and Telegraph Department
reports that Tayoy line is interrupted
beyond Siamese frontier. Malay Pen-
insular main line is interrupted bet-
ween Chumpon and Surasatradhani.
Krat line is interrupted beyond Srir-
acha. Paknampo line is in good order
as far as Loburi. Other lines are all
right.

A GENTLEMAN who has recently
been up country related to us a re-
markable experience. He was in the
plains when a storm came on. At first
there was rain. This presently turned
to hail, and the hailstones were of an
unusually large size, so much so that he
measured some of the stones and found
that they were no less than two centi-
metres in diameter. The hail lasted
for about five minutes, after which it
was succeeded by heavy rain.

Cricket.

There will be an extra match outside
the regular cricket season, at the
R. B. S. C., on Sunday next 15 April,
beginning at 10.20 a.m. sharp. The
following are the sides:

Orient Cricket Club.	R. B. S. C.
F. E. Van Der	P. Christman
Smagt (Captain)	(Captain)
P. Campbell	W. Warner Shand
J. Lawrence	R. B. H. Gibbins
K. Pirosha	L. W. Horne
A. W. Wendt	H. G. Dering
H. Jacob	T. Jodge
H. Vantweert	G. A. C. Preston
W. Vansanden	H. Chester Walsh
A. B. Vandargen	Norman Maxwell
D. Hendricks	Hamilton Price
H. Mabeth	D. B. Robertson
De Witt	M. Cooke-Collis

Reserves.

Verke
A. Perrie
H. Robinson

Fewer Amputations.

A surgical discovery of considerable
importance has been made in the course
of this war. The fact that ninety-nine
times out of a hundred amputation is
rendered unnecessary is a sufficient
proof of its importance. The credit
for the discovery is due to a young
surgeon of Rheims named Mencières.
Hundreds of wounded who have passed
through his hands speak of him as a
man who "does not use the knife to
cure you."

The basic idea of Dr. Mencières'
invention is that of a solution which,
unlike the ordinary antiseptics, kills
the microbes, without at the same time
by the violence of its action destroying
the cells. In short, Dr. Mencières has
found an antiseptic which while an-
nihilitating the germs does no harm to
the tissues. Not only does it not under-
mine or kill the vitality of the organic
elements but vivifies them to such a
degree that new cells are formed, while
the skin, incited to action, as it were,
at once sets itself to repair its own
losses.

The method of Dr. Mencières is
essentially simple, and consists mainly
to use his own words, "in embarking
the wound, cleaning it, and removing
constriction, and so drenching it with
the new solution that gradually the
most horrible wounds close up and
leave little more than a scar."

PADDY REPORT FOR APRIL 10.

Nasuan 1810 Coyas at Tcs. 65.88 each
Samrang 680 " " 44.67
Namsang 320 " " 38.60
Total 2810 Coyas "

THE Great War.

French Communiqué.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 10. Yesterday the situation was unchanged. The Germans delivered 1200 shells on Reims; the casualties were one killed and three wounded. We defeated several enemy attacks north-east of Reims close to Concy. The British at 5.30 a.m. on a big front south of Arras and south of Lens, and everywhere penetrated the enemy lines. They took near Cambrai the villages of Hermies, Boursies and Bois Havrin-court, also Fresnoy-le-petit near St. Quentin, and advanced south-east of Verdun. The first reports mention a large number of prisoners, but it has not yet been possible to arrive at the total.

Cuba Declares War.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 10. Havana.—The President has signed a declaration of war between Cuba and Germany. The interned German ships have been seized, and the German Minister has received his passport.

South America Roused.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 10. Despatches from Chili and Peru afford belief that those two republics are on the point of formally declaring war against Germany.

Panama.—The President has declared that he will assist the United States to defend the Canal, and has cancelled the exequatur of the German Consul.

Rio de Janeiro.—The President has stated that after the results of the enquiry on the torpedoing of the *Parana* he will act with firmness to maintain the dignity of the Brazilian nation.

Central Powers and Peace.

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 10. Certain German papers deny that the Central Powers intend making a fresh peace offer.

Kaiser Fatally Ill.

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 10. It is reported that the Kaiser is fatally ill with Bright's disease.

Labour Members' Congratulation.

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 10. Two British labour members are going to Russia at the request of the Government and are conveying the British labour party's message of congratulation.

The Allies' Offensive.

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 10. A French expert on the Western front says that no obstacle checks the Allies' offensive.

Fatal Aeroplane Accident.

While flying over the Military Aeroplane Station at Tokorozawa, north of Tokyo, on March 6, Lieutenant Sawada, attached to the Japanese Military Aeroplane Corps, fell to the ground and was killed on the spot. It appears that the unfortunate officer was flying in a small aeroplane at a height of 900 metres when something went wrong with the machine and the aeroplane fell in flames. Lieutenant Sawada was last year sent to Europe to study the science, and visited Great Britain, France, Russia and other countries in Europe, returning home only a few weeks ago. In connection with his return, rumours were circulated that he would leave the service and join a private aeroplane association for the purpose of money making.

Speech By Smuts.

Whole Empire Fighting to Win.

London, April 2.—Mr. Walter Long, presiding at a House of Commons luncheon to the Dominions representatives, rejoiced at their presence in London at this juncture. He cordially welcomed the Indian representatives, and declared that the Empire would emerge from the war stronger and greater than ever. “The gathering of Dominions representatives is fraught with immense possibilities. From it will emerge an Empire such as we have never seen before.” He referred to South Africa, amid loud cheers, as a soldier and a statesman full of courage and wisdom who had acquired a right to advise and help us in the time of stress and difficulty.

Motherland's Marvellous Effort. General Smuts, who received an ovation on rising to reply, said he wished that General Botha were there to reply with Sir R. Borden, but he was still bearing a burden in South Africa which no other man could bear. (Cheers.) He frankly confessed that what had impressed him was the United Kingdom's war effort, which surpassed imagination. This effort and spirit were a pledge that all would end well. (Cheers.) The effort of the Dominions was also marvellous. Canada alone had made an effort equal to that of Britain in the time of the Boer war. He paid a tribute to the Indian troops, saying that he had never commanded more loyal or braver men, and also the Australians and New Zealanders.

Justice of British Rule. Referring to South Africa, General Smuts said there was an internal conviction there when the war started, “but we set our house in order and hurled the enemy across the equator. (Cheers.) This was done by the population, the majority of whom fought against Britain fifteen years ago. Therefore you see South Africa has done her share. (Loud cheers.)” After paying a tribute to Sir H. Campbell Bannerman for the settlement after the Boer war, “one of the wisest political settlements ever made,” General Smuts proceeded: “After all the Empire is founded on the principles of equality and freedom, unlike Germany, who stands for ‘might is right.’ To-day the world is against Germany.

Germany Nearly Spent. “If the United States does not go to war against Germany now, she will have to later. If we continue to found the issue on our high principles, Germany is already defeated morally and politically. The position is grave and there is hard work ahead. Germany cannot continue much longer. She will reach her maximum effort this summer. I am convinced her submarine effort will not settle the war, although it will inconvenience us. I believe this summer will see that menace fail, and earlier than most people think we shall hear of peace again.”

Looking Ahead. General Smuts concluded: “We are not actuated by mere vengeance or hatred, and we must make a settlement on a wide basis in the interests of the Empire and Europe. The British Empire is much larger and more diverse than anything hitherto. What we have been used to in the past will not apply in future. We must not follow precedents but must make them. After all we are built on freedom, and no one outside a lunatic asylum wants to use force with the nations of the Empire.” (Cheers.)

The Complete Letter Writer.

There is a fine ring of the eighteenth century, says the *Manchester Guardian*, about the ending which Mr. Balfour gave to his letter to our Ambassador at Washington on the peace proposals. He concluded with the words:—

“I am, with great truth and respect, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.”

In closing his despatch in this manner the Foreign Secretary was following strict diplomatic rule as set down with meticulous care by the French protocol. Years ago—probably in the reign of Louis the Fourteenth—the French Government decided to set a standard of courtesy, and they drew up an elaborate protocol giving guidance for all circumstances. As time progressed all nations began to adopt the same standard, and now, not only is French the language of diplomacy, but the French standard of courtesy is international.

The document is in the care of the Chief of the Protocol, that important personage who would instruct the President how to receive King George should he go to Paris, and who is presumed to know all the elements of international and social usage. The protocol is so meticulous that it even directs the circumstances in which the ending to a letter should be set out: whether “Sir” should have a line to itself; whether “humble servant” should be given a like distinction; and when, and when not, the word “and” should appear between “obedient” and “humble.” It does not deal solely with diplomatic, or international matters. The correspondence of all French citizens is more or less bound by it. So when a careful Frenchman writes to a friend he never breaks a word with a hyphen at the end of a line, nor does he ever abbreviate a word. Such an act in a private letter though possibly not in a business letter—would be highly discourteous.

A Macedonian Fete.

“Times” Correspondent at Salonika. It is perhaps the only advantage of being at Salonika that you can spend two separate Christmas eves there. Thus it happened that, 13 days after we had eaten our own plum puddings in the mess, we rode away romantically across the mountains for a Christmas Day in a Macedonian village.

The cavalcade consisted of three Englishmen—one of them a cosmopolitan genius speaking Greek like his mother tongue—Petros, a Greek orderly and a leading citizen of our village. We sat on pack saddles not unlike armchairs with rope stirrups. The reins are hollow mockery, their only purpose being to affront the pony and make him sulk. Hang them carelessly on the saddle and the unbridled brute beast will find his way along the most blood-curdling paths where deep ravines full of boulders await the smallest slip. At the end of a pass we emerged into a great plain and saw our village before us amid vineyards and fig-trees.

We fired a salvo of revolver shots into the air to announce our arrival and were soon shaking hands with a number of beautifully washed gentlemen in their Sunday clothes—dark blue black-braided Eton jackets and dark baggy trousers—and saying Greek Good mornings and Happy Christmas.

We had a host in chief to whom we were pledged and had thought to lunch with him, but Petros was politely determined that we were to lunch with him, and before we fully appreciated the position we were in his house reclining on lovely striped rugs of red, black, and yellow and watching the sparks from a wood fire fly up a big chimney. Before lunch, however, came a ceremony which is inevitable on entering any house. The daughter of the house brings a tray on which are small glasses of home-made brandy, and an equal number of glasses of water, and a dish of sweet stuff—Turkish delight, chocolates, or in one case, unequivocally British marmalade to be eaten with a spoon the guest stands up, takes a glass of brandy, drinks it and says *eyiateris*, “Cheers.” Next he takes a sip of water, and last a sweet. He says to the lady *exaploris*, she replies in effect, “I hope it will do you good,” and moves on with her tray to the next guest.

After the cognac and the Turkish coffee came lunch. Soup of ripe, rice and vinegar, followed by a duck. The duck had rice with it, and a touch of garlic. Of all ducks this was the most palatable I have ever eaten. We were not allowed to enjoy it without a struggle for host in chief had heard of our coming and sent his eldest son to rip us in a timely from Petros. He was appeased by the promise of future meals at his house and accompanied us to see the great event of the day, the dancing in the market-place.

The market place is an irregular open space with the inevitable plane tree. The spectators gather in the corners, leaving the middle clear for the dancers, who are divided into two groups. One of these groups revolves slowly round a barrel organ decorated with artificial flowers and grinding out one never-ending tune. First come half a dozen young men, their hands on each other's shoulders. Next, hand in hand, some 20 or more women with maroon-coloured draperies round their heads, dark-blue bodices and skirts and large aprons of vivid scarlet crossed with bars of a darker red and fringed with tassels of bright colour. Round their necks are strings of gold coins—dowries to be handed on from mother to daughter, big thin Magyar coins mostly, though one lady has a brooch of three English sovereigns. Next to the women come the children, talling away to the very tiniest little girl, each resplendent in her tiny red apron. The leader performs a very simple step; his immediate neighbours imitate it, but further down the line the step becomes a mere shuffle, and so they go round and round for ever silently and steadily, not apparently bored, but with no trace of joviality.

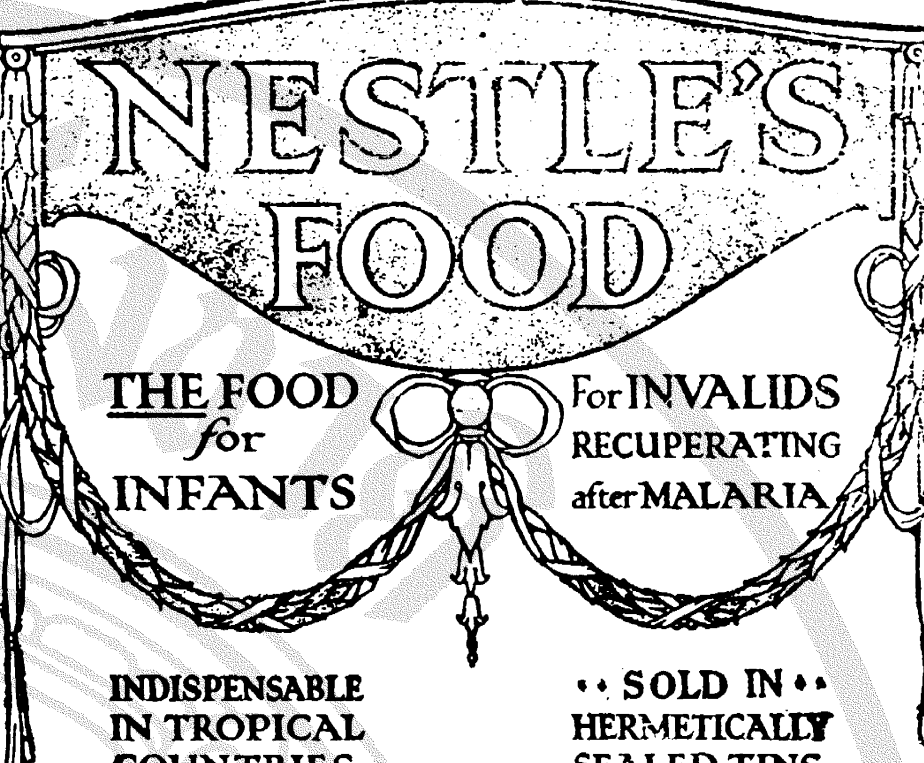
The other group consists of older men who dance far more elaborately with turnings and twistings and duckings and snappings of fingers. Their leader is a fine, tall fellow with a fierce, black moustache and a red sash. He waves a bottle in one hand, assumes poses of humorously exaggerated grace, and has altogether a *debonnaire* and

swash-buckling way with him. Having been to America he proudly shouts “Merry Christmas; Happy New Year” to us. For this group music is provided by two clarinet players and a drummer. Many of the dancers reward them by throwing them coins. If anyone throws a drachma the leader picks it up, spits upon it, and by this simple method claps on to the forehead of a clarinet player, who thereupon walks round him high in the air, exhibiting the legs.

As we sat watching from a balcony there came to wait on us the Mayor of the village, a polished gentleman, clad, as befitting one who had been in his youth a head waiter, in a smartly cut tuxedo and a bowler hat. He asked us to call upon him, and at his house we sat in a solemn circle and listened to curious Turkish tunes upon the gramophone. He clung to us through innumerable further calls and finally came back with us to the house of our own particular host.

To us who could not understand him, he appeared tedious; to those who could he was obviously a nightmare. At last he left us with our host, a splendid giant of an old man of 70 who also admired the English. When their fleet had been at Salonique 20 years ago he had opened a butcher's shop and in one month made a profit of £120. But his praise was more discriminating than the Mayor's. “These men have come to my house,” he said. “They appear very agreeable, but I do not know their hearts. They may be like an apple that has a pretty skin and a sweet smell, but is worm eaten at the core.”

Too soon came the time for us to depart. Amid the friendliest protestations we climbed once more on to our ponies, drank the last stirrup cup of brandy, and said the last *eyiateris*. And so back with memories of the most charming and hospitable good manners we had ever met.



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From the Trenches.

I.—A Winter Night.

No more to watch by night's eternal shore.
With England's chivalry at dawn to ride,

No more defeat, faith, victory. Oh
no more
A cause on earth for which we
might have died.

—NEWBOLT.

A burst of machine-gun fire traversing the parapet of the front line trench heralds the approach of night. A weary subaltern appears round a corner and comes down the communication trench. Snow has been falling, and the trench is in poor condition. Never a healthy spot, for the last few days it has suffered from bombardment with mihenwerfer, "oildrums," and other implements of trench warfare. Liquid slime washes around and above his knees as he plods his way along. He is alone, and the dusk makes the appearance ghastlier than ever. Trees rent by high explosives into strange shapes lie across the top of the trench, which in many places is blown in by shell fire. All around is a desolation as of Sodom and Gomorrah. For eighteen months no living thing has walked these fields; their only inhabitants warring men burrowing deep in the earth, while at night patrols steal out on their deadly errands. The whole ground is scarred and pitted and black with explosive. A scene perhaps from Dante's Inferno, while the shrill and mournful wind sweeping over these waste lands suggests that death which is lurking everywhere, and is the grim companion of all. On the right is the cemetery of the village which the enemy holds—no longer a village, for scarcely one stone lies upon another. The skeletons of a few trees stand gaunt on the horizon—that is all. The cemetery through which the trench runs is a common mark for every device of the enemy. A few stunted trees, with ruined tombstones and iron crucifixes, lie across the scarred and shattered earth, and in the centre stands one crucifix, by some miracle untouched through all these months of warfare, facing the German lines. There it stands, with ruin all around, surveying the hostile line while behind it the sun has set, and the light is fading slowly out of the sky. In the town behind, by another miracle, there stands the image of the Virgin and Child on a shattered tower—a symbol, perhaps, that the powers of darkness have not yet won the day. The subaltern at length reaches the fire trench and breathes a sigh of relief. The trench which he has passed through is accounted dangerous, for it is not a main highway, and the pros-

pect of lying wounded in three feet of mud is not pleasant. He passes along the fire trench, stopping now and again to speak to a man or to arrange some piece of work for the night. On all there rests a weariness of body and soul. Four weary nights they have not slept, with only an hour or two of fitful sleep during the day. Another night of monotony and strain is before them. "How long, O Lord, how long?"

Darkness has fallen, and the moon sheds its white glare on No Man's Land. The heads of the two men on watch show dark against night's eternal shore. Does Britain realise the significance of these watchers; of the perpetual watch of her sailors across the troubled wastes of the North Sea; of her soldiers in weariness and often terror, surrounded by manifold forms of death, surveying across grim No Man's Land an ever watchful enemy? For this is Britain's frontier, and mile after mile her chivalry stand in mud and snow through the long watches of the night. Does she really understand?

"Fritz is a bit late with his nightly strafe," remarks the subaltern to his sergeant. A deadly stillness is in the air. Then a machine-gun opens fire, traversing the parapet above their heads, and the steady thud of the sniper's bullet, as it hits the parapet in front, breaks the silence. Then suddenly all along the line one shattering roar succeeds another as bombs, "oildrums," and shells pitch round the trench. "My God!" exclaims the subaltern, and flattens himself against the parapet, protecting his face with his crossed forearms. In a moment it is over: the subaltern gets up and makes his way along the trench. "Anyone hurt?" One or two have been blown off the fire step into the mud. "Oo said there wasn't a war on?" remarks a Cockney. Private Jock McNab, the company Scotchman, appears to be muttering something resembling "a hob a day."

And still the watch goes on, and the splash of the mud as the subaltern returns to his post is the only sound for a moment. Then the Maxim opens again. Snow begins to fall, and No Man's Land is soon covered with a sheet of white against which the barbed wire shows up grimly dark. And where is the glamour of war or its glory, except in the undaunted spirit of the watchers in the sodden trench?

Dawn is breaking at last and one more weary night is over.

"Night with its train of stars and its great gift of sleep."

The long-awaited "Stand clear" comes at last, and tired men gather their kits and file off to their dug-outs. But wait. There are voices in the dis-

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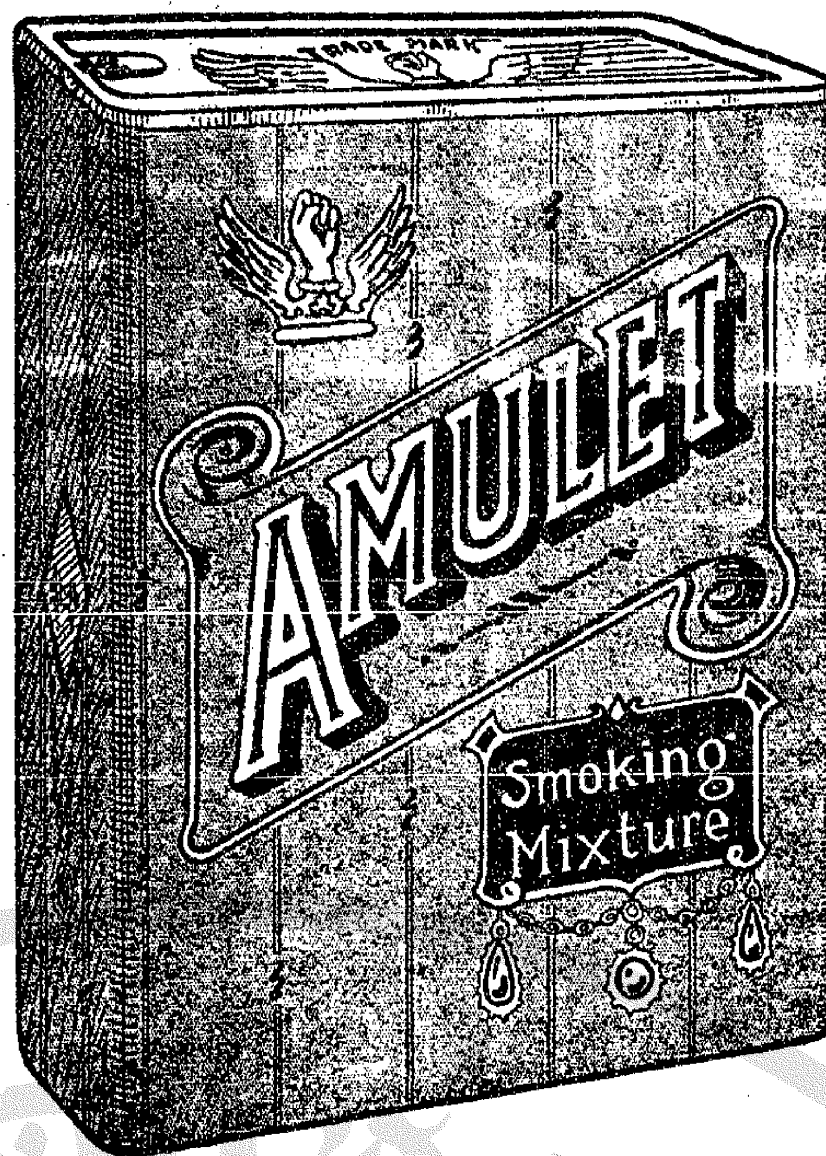
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Up

Tues. Thurs	daily	daily	daily	daily		daily	daily	daily	Weds. Fris.	daily	Chumpon-Tung Song on Mondays, Weds. & Fri.	Tung Song-Chumpon on Tues, Thurs and Sat.			
a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.								a.m.				
7.—	8.—	1.20	2.05	Dep. Bangkok Noi ...	Arr.	11.38	12.33	4.58	7.14		6.35	Dep. Chumpon Arr.	5.30		
8.15	9.48	2.45	4.27	" M. Nakhon Patom ...	"	9.28	11.10	3.17	6.01		8.46	" Langsuen "	3.31		
9.36	11.38	4.20	6.57	Arr. Ratburi ...	Dep.	6.30	9.38	1.30	4.37		12.31	" Surasutra Dhani "	12.03		
9.46	11.52	4.30		Dep. " ...	Arr.	a.m.	9.28	1.02	4.27		4.57	Arr. Tung Song Dep	7.10		
10.57	1.26	6.18		Arr. Petchaburi ...	Dep.		7.20	11.18	3.17				a.m.		
11.05	2.—			Dep. " ...	Arr.		a.m.	10.45	3.09						
12.38	5.—			Hua Hin ...	"			7.54	1.39						
1.06	5.42			Arr. Wang Phong ...	Dep.			7.—	1.08						
1.14				Dep. " ...	Arr.			a.m.	1.—	3.35					
									p.m.						
3.01				9.45 " Prachuap Kirikan ...	"			11.21	3.10		p.m.	Dep. N. Junction Arr.	12.12		
7.06				4.14 Arr. Chumpon ...	Dep.			7.05	8.35		2.50	" Tung Song "	11.11		
								a.m.	a.m.		6.04	Dep. Trang Dep.	7.30		
													a.m.		
Tung Song-Nakhon Srithamaraj Daily						Nakhon Srithamaraj-Tung Song Daily						Tung Song-Singora on Tues, Thurs. & Satur.		Singora-Tung Song on M. n's. Weds. & Fri.	
		a.m.	p.m.								a.m.	Dep. Tung Song Arr.	2.24		
		7.—	...	Dep. Tung Song Arr.		...	5.37				11.11				
		8.09	1.30	" Nakhon Junction "		12.0	4.38				p.m.	" N. Junction "		1.23	
		9.23	2.44	Arr. Nakhon Srithamaraj Dep.		10.46	3.14				12.27	" Patalung "		10.44	
						a.m.	p.m.				2.50	" Ootapao "		8.06	
											5.26	Arr. Singora Dep.	7.—		
											6.17		a.m.		

Daily Bread.

Bread is no longer merely the staff of life; it has become the staple of conversation. It has even assailed the position of that old stand-by the Weather and its successor, the Scarcity of Sugar. The Government having decreed that our bread be made of "straight run flour," we begin at once to prattle of percentages and discuss decimal points, the bugbear of Lord Randolph Churchill, who "could never understand what those damned little dots meant." Our interest, too, is aroused as to the particular shade our bread is to assume, and we are somewhat surprised at the heaviness of cake. But, so far as one can make out, we shall be none the worse for our war-bread venture, possibly even better, for the scientists whisper darkly of mysterious "vitamines," which appear to be some sort of digestive liquors, very little of them necessary, but that little essential. And these scientists point out, further, that, in spite of the "vitamines" being so absolutely necessary, they are practically absent in "best white flour."

But while the scientists prattle of "vitamines" the Government preach economy and justify their decrees as to the quality of our bread upon the score that from the same weight of wheat we shall be obtaining an increased amount of nutriment. If it is nutriment for bulk that the Government desire they should have gone to the Lapp and considered his ways, especially his breadmaking ways, for he produces in "Palk Bread" the most nutritious of all breads. It has its drawbacks however, for, like Katisha, it must be an acquired taste. Anyhow, to enjoy it thoroughly one needs to be ignorant of its constituents, and blind to its appearance; for it is compounded of rye flour and reindeer blood, and in colour is decidedly dusky. To render it really palatable it needs an Arctic climate for "frillings" and the appetite of Esau, the hunter. If, however, it is economy the Government desire, then they might consider the Arab and his bread-making ways. He sees no reason for looking on bread merely as something to be eaten, or limiting it to edible purposes. The dough of which it is made he rolls out into large thin sheets which, when baked he tosses up over his stall exposed to the scorching rays of a fiery sun, and it adapts itself admirably to the functions of a sunshade. When rain comes, as come it will even in the best regulated climates, the sun-shade bread with the aid of a thin film of almond oil, will function admirably as a mackintosh. And only when it begins to fray a bit at the edges need it be put to base usage and become—

just bread. Again on the score of economy a strong case could be made out for the bread made in North China by flat ironing the pith of a bambusa grass. From this treatment it emerges as little ivory-white strips of great delicacy, at least such is the opinion of the Manchurians, and they ought to know for they eat them.

But in spite of these recipes, all of which have been well and truly tried, we doubt their general acceptance, for an Englishman is apt to be very conservative in the matter of food, even war-bread is not so much an innovation as a reversion to type, a harking back to precedent in a manner thoroughly in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, which, as the tender Tennyson pointed out, "slowly broadens down

from precedent to precedent." Indeed that wonderful, miraculous, self-digesting, health-inspiring "Standard Bread" is not new in type, nor even in name. Turn back the pages of history but a century and a quarter, and we find my Lords of the Council banning the use of fine white flour and substituting therefore "Standard Wheaten Bread." But these Lords of the Council seemed strangely to mix up precept with performance, and preaching with practice. For they not only issued the decrees, but themselves obeyed them. Our modern legislators, in these days of Liquor Laws, make no such mistake, for with their greater enlightenment and clearer intelligence they have been able to differentiate quite clearly the several positions of teacher and taught, of law-giving and law-obeying.

But if we seek not precedent, but origin, then for war bread we must go a good deal further back than the Eighteenth Century. We are somewhere near it when we get back to Richard II's reign. At that time there were separate qualities of bread baked, and each quality by a separate baker. The aristocrats of the trade were those who used the finest white flour and baked "sinnel bread" and there was the Mayor to pay if they dabbled in any inferior grade. This was for the use of the King and his Court, and the very few others who could afford to buy it. At the other end of the scale were the bakers of "tourte" or brown bread, who were forbidden by law to have a bolting sieve in their possession with which to separate bran from flour. This was the bread for the masses.

For those who aspired to the classes and shunned the masses there was "Wassel" baked from flour not too finely sifted. And this was the ancestor of our "war-bread," which will be eaten, not on the score of economy, but because it is doomed, by the powers that be, to be necessary for the adequate prosecution of our will-to-win. The Premier once belauded the "potato bread spirit"; it will be found to quail before the spirit of the eaters of the English war bread.—Ez.

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