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VOL. 43. NO. 93

BANGKOK MONDAY APRIL 23. 1917.

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During the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any unusual 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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Bangkok, March 27, 1909.

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HIGH CLASS TAILOR.

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

TIDE TABLE.

DEPTH OF WATER ON THE
BANGKOK BAR.
FOR APRIL 1917.

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

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

PHASES OF THE MOON.

April 7th 0 Full Moon 8 h 31 m p.m.
15th (Last Quarter) 2 h 52 m a.m.
21st 0 New Moon 8 h 43 m p.m.
28th (First Quarter) 0 h 4 m p.m.

MUSCULAR BACKACHE.

The muscles of the back do the heavy work of the body. When they are overworked or ill-nourished they ache and people begin to worry needlessly about their kidneys.

Backache may be due to lumbago, which is rheumatism of the muscles of the back, but more backaches are caused by overstrain, overwork, and muscle starvation due to thin blood than by anything else.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills build up the blood, and sufferers from backache would do well to try this treatment before giving way to worry over a fancied organic disease. Rest and the tonic treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will correct most forms of backache.

For people who work too hard and sleep too little a short course of treatment with these pills is all that is needed to drive away the pains and aches that are warnings of a coming breakdown.

Begin to renew your strength to-day by starting Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Most dealers sell them, but you should make sure to ask for Dr. Williams'.

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On Saturdays, opposite H. B. M. Consulate, New Road.

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Tuesday 24th 2 p.m. s.s. Kanchow

Tuesday 24th 3 p.m. s.s. Jade

CHANDABURI

Wednesday 25th 10 a.m. s.s. Chutatch

Exchange Rates.

To-day's Quotations.

LONDON—
Bank Bills, demand 1/6 7/16
Bank Bills, 3 months' sight —
PARIS—
Bank Bills, demand 205
GERMANY—
Bank Bills, demand —
NEW YORK—
Bank Bills, demand U. S. A. 36
INDIA—
Bank Bills, demand 108 3/4
SINGAPORE—
Bank Bills, demand \$65 1/2
HONGKONG—
Bank Bills, demand \$ 64 1/4
YOKOHAMA & KOBE...
Bank Bills, demand Y70 3/8
NOTES—The rate of Interest on Advance Bills has been reduced to 6 per cent. per annum.
Equivalent of Exchange demand London in Siam currency —
Tica. 12.08.—(Bank Rate)

Siam Observer
Special War Edition

Subscription Tica 4 per mensem,

International Crop Report.

The cold wave which set in during January throughout Europe, bringing the temperature down to exceptionally low levels in many places, has done damage to autumn sown crops and has considerably interfered with field work in that month. This is the chief feature in the reports published in the February number of the Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics of the International Institute of Agriculture, published in Rome.

In France ploughing and sowing were performed stopped, and nothing but carting of fertilisers was accelerated by the abnormal temperature.

In that country a noticeable decline in the area placed under cereals during the autumn of 1916 is reported. The wheat area on 1 January 1917 was only 4,277 thousands of hectares or 85 per cent. of that sown at the same date in 1916; the area under rye was 828 thousands of hectares (90 per cent.) and that under oats was 651 thousands (95 per cent.). The only increase is in the area under barley, amounting to 10 per cent. over that of 1916; this year's return is for 109 thousand hectares. The condition of autumn sown crops on 1 January 1917 was lower than that of the same date last year, for wheat, barley and oats, while for rye it was practically similar. In Great Britain and Ireland heavy snowfalls with icy winds prevailed during the greater part of the month, and caused much retardation in field work. Still the crops that are above ground look well in places where the snow is not lying, but are not sufficiently advanced for the time of year.

In Italy the weather was almost as inclement as in the other countries mentioned. The condition of crops is an average one, but, the preparations for spring sowing in North Italy have been inaugurated only in a few provinces. In the peninsula plentiful rains have been generally favourable to these preparations.

In British India, the sowing season for wheat has been favourable on the whole, in spite of too much rain in certain provinces, which however do not account for more than 25 % of the whole area under this crop. On the other hand the important rice-growing regions of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (where about one-half the yield of British India is produced as a rule) have suffered from heavy rains and floods, causing injury which cannot be disregarded. In Japan, the sowing of wheat and barley has been slightly retarded by rains.

Passing to the countries of the southern hemisphere, where the cereal har-

vest of 1916-17 is now completed, it may be noted that Australia has modified previous estimates and now publishes the following figures; wheat, 39,048 thousands of quintals; or 100 per cent. of the crop of 1915-16; rye, 34 thousands of quintals; barley 912 thousands of quintals; oats 3,012 thousands; maize 2,179 thousands of quintals.

The result is that the crops for 1916-17 of the two principal countries in the southern hemisphere (Argentina and Australia) reach only 60,111 thousands of quintals of wheat as compared with 85,907 thousands in 1915-16, or 70 per cent. of the last mentioned yield.

By comparison with the average yield of the five years 1909-10 to 1913-14, this year's crop is only 92 per cent.

There are no great changes observed in the results of the harvest of 1916 in the northern hemisphere.

As regards the potato crops, the Bulletin of the Rome Institute, now under review, assigns the yields of France, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, the United States and Japan with a total of 286,631 thousands of quintals, against 331,701 in 1915, and 364,578 the average of 1909 to 1913, representing respectively 86 and 79 per cent. of these two figures. This is an unsatisfactory crop, especially considering that the cereal harvests have been by no means brilliant and that potatoes are consequently more in request than normal.

The agricultural portion of the Bulletin also includes estimates of the number of farm animals in some countries. In Great Britain and Ireland between June 1915 and a twelve-month later, the number of horses increased 6 per cent, that of cattle and sheep 2 per cent, while pigs decreased 5 per cent. In the United States, on 1 January 1917, only cattle and mules were more numerous than on 1 January 1916, while horses, sheep and pigs were very much on a par at the two dates.

SERVES THE WHOLE FAMILY.
The fame of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is world wide. It is good for the deep seated cough of the adult or the croup and whooping cough of the children. The same bottle serves the whole family. For sale by the British Dispensary.

**MARTIN'S
APIOL & STEEL
PILLS**
A French Remedy for all Irrregularities. Thousands of cases of irregularities of the system, a simple dose may be taken. The pills are sold in all chemists and druggists. For full particulars see the enclosed leaflet. At all Chemists and Druggists, or post free to MARTIN, Clermont, FRANCE.

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. 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.10.
p.m. 1, 1.30, 2.30, 3.10, 3.50, 4.40, 5.30, daily.
Bangkabue to Samkuk ... 2.30 p.m. daily.
" " 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 wang Luang landing a.m. 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, and p.m. 1.00, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30, and 5.30, daily.

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

ROYAL STATE RAILWAYS.

(Broad Gauge Lines.)

TIME TABLE

In force from 1st April, 1916.

	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Bangkok Dep.	7.00	9.48	1.25	3.33	Lampang Dep.	...	...	...	7.33
Ayuthia Arr.	9.3	11.41	3.33	5.45	...	...	...	...	p.m.
Ban Phaji Arr.	9.47	12.20	4.24	6.30	Den Chai "	...	...	...	12.38
Ban Phaji Dep.	9.57	12.37	4.30	...	Tha Sao "	...	...	...	7.1
Lopburi Arr.	11.5	1.55	5.48	...	Utaradit "	...	...	...	2.21
Chengket Dep.	12.33	3.38	...	7.25	Ban Dara Arr.	...	...	...	8.16
Pak'pho Arr.	2.17	5.40	...	9.54	Ban Dara Dep.	...	...	...	8.24
Pak'pho Dep.	2.26	6.30	...	...	Pitsa'loke Arr.	...	...	...	10.43
Pitsa'loke Arr.	6.11.5	...	...	...	Pitsa'loke Dep.	...	...	...	1.45
Pitsa'loke Dep.	7.4	2.2	...	...	Pak'pho Arr.	...	...	...	6.20
Ban Dara Arr.	9.5	4.18	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.34
Ban Dara Dep.	9.20	4.40	...	...	...	...	...	...	p.m.
S'kaloke Arr.	10.21	5.41	...	...	Pak'pho Dep.	3.58	...	7.20	10.43
Ban Dara Dep.	9.10	4.26	...	...	Chengket Arr.	6.21	...	9.22	12.28
Utaradit "	10.6	5.29	...	...	Lopburi Dep.	...	7.10	11.6	1.56
Tha Sao Arr.	10.15	5.38	...	...	Ban Phaji Arr.	...	8.30	12.21	3.4
Den Chai "	11.57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	p.m.
Lampang "	4.52	...	...	...	Korat Dep.	...	...	...	p.m.
Ban Phaji Dep.	10.10	12.30	4.41	...	Lat Bua Kao Ar.	5.55	...	8.40	...
Gengko Arr.	11.7	1.26	5.51	...	Gengko Dep.	...	7.12	11.22	1.52
Lat Bua Kao Dep.	...	4.2	...	8.2	Ban Phaji Arr.	...	8.22	12.29	2.59
Korat "	...	6.8	...	10.3	...	...	...	...	p.m.
Bangkok Dep.	7.45	...	...	3.50	Ban Phaji Dep.	6.27	8.37	12.44	3.14
Petrien Arr.	9.33	...	...	5.38	Ayuthia "	...	7.13	9.25	1.23
...	...	...	...	...	Bangkok Arr.	9.28	11.35	3.16	6.00
...	...	...	...	...	Petrien Dep.	7.50	...	...	p.m.
...	...	...	...	...	Bangkok Arr.	9.36	...	...	5.45

France and the War.

The Rhine Frontier.

From an article by Dr. Holland Rose in the *Nineteenth Century* it would seem that a demand for the Rhine as a frontier is making itself heard in France, although at present it is confined more or less to a group of not very distinguished literateurs. Such a demand on the part of France would exceed anything to which the spokesmen of the Allies conceive themselves to be committed. In the statement of their aims submitted to President Wilson at his request the Allies stated *inter alia* that they would insist on "the restitution of provinces or territories formerly torn from the Allies by force or contrary to the wishes of their inhabitants." This obviously includes Alsace-Lorraine all of which had been in the possession of France since the middle of the seventeenth century and some of it since 1648. In the frenzy with which it flew to the standards of the Republic in 1792, and during the subsequent twenty years' struggle, the population of Alsace-Lorraine was completely fused with that of France, and there can be no doubt as to what its choice would be to-day were it given the alternative of returning to its old allegiance or staying with the masters who treat it in the fashion revealed by the Zabern incident. Between the demand for the restoration of the lost provinces and demand for the Rhine frontier which the French enjoyed for a decade or two at most during the Napoleonic era there is, however, a world of difference. The French aspiration after the Rhine frontier, so far as it exists at all to-day, seems mainly to be founded on the configuration of ancient Gaul: on the fact that the Romans held the Germans on the great river for several centuries, and that modern France is the heir of Latin civilization in Northern Europe. It is true that the great Catholic cities of Coblenz, Mainz and Cologne are the creations of Gallic civilization, but it is true also that the Germans of the Middle Ages crossed the stream and planted its outposts far into the great triangle which some Frenchmen would fain see annexed by their country. The process by which the French attempted to make good their claim came later and only when the Holy Roman Empire was in dissolution. The achievement of the dream by Napoleon was a short-lived success; and it, more than any other single factor, was responsible for the reawakening of German patriotism and the existence of the aggressive Ger-

manism with which the world is confronted to-day. If Danton's demand for the "natural limits" of France stirred the patriotism of the revolutionary armies, it was no less Arnold's insistence that Germany must possess the Rhine which proved the ultimate ruin of the French cause and resulted in the setting back of her frontiers to the *status quo ante* of 1789. Such, briefly, is the position historically. The case seems to have been decided against France, and there is every likelihood that were the demand of to-day to renew the old demand the adverse historical current, now as a hundred years back, and, indeed in 1870, would be found too strong for her. Viewed in the light of conditions in the Europe of to-day the demand for the left bank of the Rhine appears hardly more judicious than in its historical aspect. To the stretch of the river on which Strasbourg lies France has a clear claim. The population is French in sympathy, and the recovery of the two great fortresses lost in 1870 should enable France to hold the country easily even if a river be not an ideal frontier. Below Mannheim, however, where streams such as the Main, the Neckar and the Ruhr bring down the vast industrial output of purely German districts, the economic conditions alone, on a stream teeming with industrial cargoes, would make the Rhine an almost impossible frontier for France. Even could two nations remain continually at peace whilst the commerce of one passed incessantly beneath the fortress guns of the other, the Germanised population in the country in the north of the great triangle on the west of the Rhine, and between it and the present French frontier, would create an almost insuperable problem. The army of occupation needed would be immense. If Metz has been a cancer in the side of Germany since 1870 it is difficult to conceive a metaphor adequate to describe the distemper which cities such as Cologne and Coblenz would occasion in the body politic of France. The probability is that no responsible statesman in France is contemplating an annexation which would involve for Europe, no less than his own country, a long era of crushing armaments ended finally by another war as maddening as the present.

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Notice is hereby given that Mr. J. Demay will take over the management of this Agency from the 23rd. April 1917.

C. HENRY,
Manager.

23

Notice.

Our Mr. Rio Niiya having been transferred to Singapore Office, Mr. N. Kato succeeds him on and after the 18th. April, 1917, as Representative of this Office.

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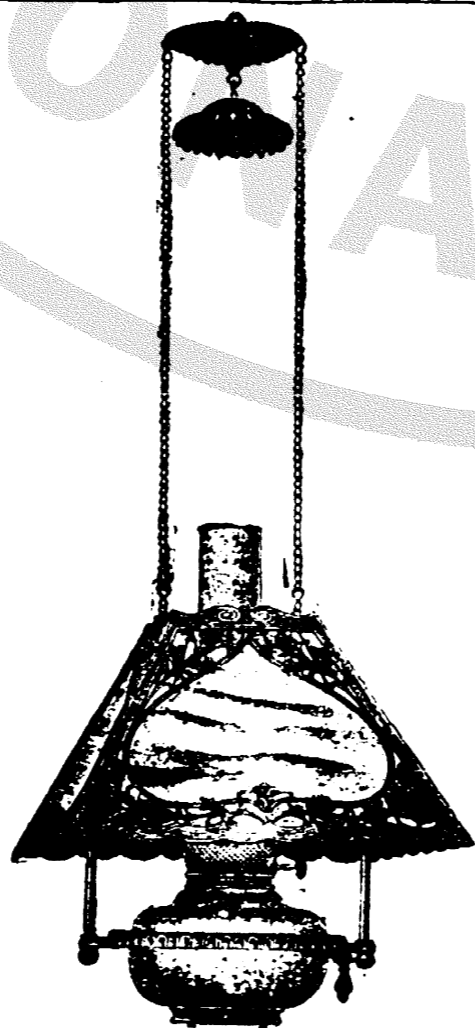
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MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1917.

FLOREAT CORONA.

In these days when republics are springing up every here and there many people will have found it very refreshing to read the telegraphed portions of Sir Charles Lucas's lecture in defence of British monarchical principles. Those principles aim at the preservation of monarchy without the sacrifice of freedom. The Crown is of inestimable value to the British Empire, and it imparts to the Government a stability which republicanism could not give to it. The Crown is an effectual guarantee against electioneering corruption, and it affords a personal object for the loyalty of the people. In particular it is to the Throne that the loyalty of Britain Beyond the Seas is given, the Overseas Dominions knowing little and caring less about mere statesmen. The politics of Great Britain itself have but a passing interest for Canada, for Australia, for South Africa or for India. But all parts of the Empire without exception recognise that the Crown is an institution raised above all partisanship, and shining as the Palladium of Empire. In the last century, particularly at about the middle of the Victorian Era, there was a good deal of republican sentiment in England, though mostly of the academic variety. No similar feeling, whether academic or otherwise, can be said to exist to-day. The true worth and importance of the Crown are fully realised by Britons of every class and type, and it would be difficult to find any among them who would be willing to see so precious a heritage lost to the Empire. Great Britain stands forth as a champion of Monarchy, and is a lustrous example of the fact that Kingship and Liberty are perfectly reconcilable with one another. The Divine Right of Kings as a political theory in the form in which it was put forward in Stuart days is no longer advanced. Nevertheless, there is still truth in the words of Shakespeare that "there is a divinity that doth hedge a King," and there is a certain spirit in monarchy that no republic has ever been able to secure. It is the spirit of personal devotion to the wearer of the Crown, who stands forward as the living embodiment of the dignity, the fulness and the aspirations of the whole nation over which he has sway. Under no circumstances could a Presidential chair ever have the glamour of a Throne. Long may the Throne continue to flourish, alike in this country as in Great Britain and elsewhere!

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

NEW ADS.—Gents' shirts of various styles and designs for sale at Mosses. Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co's store.

NOTICE is given that Mr. J. Demay has taken over the management of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, at Bangkok, from to-day.

A CORRESPONDENT of a Straits newspaper writes recording an opinion let fall by a visitor who spent a few days in Calcutta recently. "Funny place, Calcutta," this gentleman is said to have exclaimed. "There does not seem to be much of a war on, except the war with Bombay."

APROPON of our leading article on Saturday last one of our readers remarks: "It would be very interesting to know why Mr. Chaplin, even if he be ineligible for the Army, is not in his own country doing work of somewhat greater national importance than playing the clown for an American biograph company."

KING George has been pleased to give and grant unto Mr. Robert William Lamberton, late Chief Inspector of Siamese Customs, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Crown of Siam, which decoration has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Siam in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

QUITE a number of people are going to Hua Hin for a change of air. Among those there at present are T. R. H. Prince Bilialonkorn, Prince Vivid, Prince From (Dika Court), Phya Dhamasakdi Montri, Meedames Tilaka, Kerr, Reith, Cochran, Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Florio, Dr. Remy, Mr. E. Keil, Dr. and Mrs. von Wesel, Mr. A. Hertzka, Mr. E. Eisenhofer, Mr. Hans Geyer, Mr. von der Heyde.

THE**Great War.****British Mission to America.**

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 22.

A Press Bureau message states that Mr. Balfour, who at the request of the War Cabinet has undertaken a special mission to the United States, has arrived at Halifax, accompanied by Lord Cunliffe, Rear-Admiral Teacher, Major-General Bridges, and their respective staffs.

Relief Ship Sunk.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 22.

Ymuiden.—The Norwegian relief ship *Konges* bound for Rotterdam with a cargo of 8000 tons of wheat was sunk in the so-called safe zone.

Resignation of Portuguese Cabinet.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 22.

Lisbon.—The Cabinet has resigned.

German Destroyers Sunk.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 22.

Admiralty.—Yesterday night five German destroyers attempted a raid on Dover, and fired a number of rounds into a ploughed field a few miles from that place. The enemy then steered in the direction of home and of our shipping, possibly with the intention of attacking. They met with two Dover patrol vessels, who engaged with them, and in five minutes sank at least two and possibly three of the enemy vessels. The remainder fled at high speed, escaping in the darkness. Our vessels suffered no material damage, and our casualties were exceedingly slight.

Defeat of Turks.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, April 21.

Mesopotamia. Official.—General Maude on the night of April 17/18 forced the passage of the Shat el Adhaim held by a detachment of the 18th Turkish Army Corps. On Wednesday morning we attacked the main position of this Corps covering Istabulat Station 12 miles south-west of Samarra on the right bank of the Tigris. We completely routed the enemy, and took prisoner 27 officers and 1,217 men. More are coming in, also considerable booty. Only the exhaustion of our horse prevented our capturing the enemy's guns. Our casualties were 73. The dash and determination of our troops, especially the cavalry, were brilliant, in spite of the heat.

Industrial Trouble in Germany.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 22.

There is grave industrial discontent in Germany. A great strike has broken out in Berlin. Count Roventlow says that Germany must not relinquish her ideas of territorial expansion. Without a German victory the German monarchy would soon cease to exist.

Liberty Loan in Russia.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, April 22.

A great Liberty loan has been started in Russia. The Government stated that it is the people's duty to ensure victory, because the enemy aims at restoring the old regime.

Conference of Allied Ministers.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 20.

M. Ribot, Mr. Lloyd George and Baron Sonnino have held a conference Jean at de Maurienne on the general situation.

Russian Socialists' Appeal.

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
Singapore, April 23.

It is authoritatively stated that so far from contemplating peace on a basis of the existing Government the advanced Russian socialists appeal to the Austrian and German socialists to revolt and overthrow the monarchies.

The Berlin strike ended only after substantial concessions had been extorted from the Government.

Anglo-Japanese Alliance

(“S. O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
Singapore, April 23.

The Japanese Ambassador in London has said that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is stronger than ever. Japan's mission was to maintain peace in the Far East.

French Communique.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 20.

Yesterday north of the Aisne we occupied Aizy, Jouy, Laffaux and the fort of Conde. We made good progress west of Berniercourt, and increased our front by two kilometres, taking a strongly organised trench system communicating with Auberive and Bois de Moronvillers. We expelled the enemy from his position on the border south of Vaudecourt, and took 150 prisoners. To-day there was artillery fighting south of Saint Quentin. We progressed in the Laffaux district, repulsed several counter-attacks, and took 40 prisoners. We gained the country east of Loivre, taking 520 prisoners there. With artillery and machine guns we arrested three strong counter-attacks in Champagne in the district of Moronvillers, inflicting severe losses.

Paris, April 21.

Yesterday north of the Aisne we harassed the enemy, and advanced towards Chemin des Dames, occupying Sancy. We defeated a powerful German attack in the district of Ailles and Heurtebise, and in Champagne captured several important positions in the wooded country near Moronvillers. To-day there was artillery fighting in the region of Monteni la Fosse and Heurtebise, where we captured a hundred prisoners. In Champagne we repulsed an attack against Monhaut, inflicting losses, and we penetrated the German lines west of Maisons de Champagne, taking 40 prisoners.

The Position of Spain.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 20.

Madrid.—Senor Romanones has written to the King that he resigned on account of differences in the Cabinet regarding the neutrality of Spain in the world-war. Senor Romanones considers that Spain cannot remain neutral, and must decide to be a belligerent, even if only in a moral sense. The Vice-President of the Senate, Senor Garcia Prieto, has formed a new Liberal Cabinet.

Success in Mesopotamia

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 12.

Cairo.—The British forced the passage of the Shat el Adhim in Mesopotamia, capturing the enemy positions, taking 1244 prisoners, and putting the Turks to rout.

American Fleet at Work

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 21.

Washington, Official.—The American fleet has taken over the work of patrolling the American coast, relieving the Anglo-French fleet which is performing this duty.

Naval Cooperation.

Washington, April 11.—There was a Conference of the Anglo-French and American naval authorities at Washington which decided on the patrolling of the Atlantic by America.

Washington, April 14.—As a result of a conference between naval authorities it is understood the first step of the American navy will be to patrol the Atlantic and Caribbean and ultimately probably relieve the Allies of the patrolling of the North and South Atlantic side.

British Legation Telegrams.

(British Legation telegrams are not to be regarded as official communications from His Britannic Majesty's Representative, unless they are marked “Official.”)

London, April 20.

Operations on British fronts, etc., to 19th April inclusive. On both the British and the French fronts brilliant progress has been made during the past week, despite the fact that operations have been greatly hampered by bad weather. The capture of the whole of the Vimy ridge by the British troops was a masterpiece of modern tactics. Vimy ridge is of the highest importance, for it commands all the country to the east, and secures the left flank of the British advance. The desperate attempt made by the Germans to hold Vimy ridge and Mouchy heights, invaluable for purposes of observation, are the best proof of the importance attached by the enemy to the positions which they have lost. An interesting feature of the recent fighting has been the valuable work done by the “tanks.” The French successes make a brilliant pendant to the recent gains on the British front. Despite heavy reinforcements brought up by the enemy in anticipation of the attack, the French captured all the German first-line positions on a wide front, repulsed all German counter-attacks with heavy losses to the enemy, and made large captures of prisoners, guns and machine-guns. Before the opening of the Spring campaign on the western front the German military critics wrote columns of praise of the so-called voluntary retirement on the Somme, effected, they declared, by Hindenburg's military genius in order to leave the fighting initiative in German hands. It will be difficult for German writers to present as evidence of initiative and military genius the capture by the British and French armies in less than three weeks of 31,000 German prisoners, some 400 guns and 500 machine-guns, besides vast quantities of ammunition, rifles, trench-mortars and every kind of booty, and the loss by their troops of vital positions held in strength and fortified during two years, and considered by their higher command to have been impregnable. The battle continues to develop according to the British plan. German official communications, recalling, have referred to the French offensive as an “attempt to break through,” and have spoken of the attack as having a “distant objective.” These references are obviously made with the intention of being able to reassure the German public at a later date by stating that the French and British attacks failed in something which was not being attempted. The German retirement continues to be marked by those acts of wanton destruction, obscenity and barbarism which the entire civilised world now regards as characteristically German. Signs are not wanting that more thoughtful Germans are beginning to be apprehensive of the consequences likely to follow from the deliberate rejection by their leaders of civilised standards of conduct. In a recent number of the *Journal de Geneve* the Bavarian author Annette Kolb wrote that the infamous conduct of Germany's leaders during the War has earned for the German people the well-merited name of “Huns.” Annette Kolb's letter ends with an appeal to Bavaria to rise in revolt from Bavaria to the Baltic Sea against the “Huns,” whose wholly inhuman methods have compromised German honour in the eyes of the world for generations to come.

The bombing of Freiburg by British aeroplanes as a reprisal for the torpedoing of hospital-ships was greeted with squeals of fury and protest from the German press, which has waxed enthusiastic over the bombing by Zeppelins of undefended British towns and villages, the sinking of hospital-ships with their freights of wounded and Red Cross nurses, and the murder of women and children when German ships bombarded the pleasure-resort of Scarborough. It is almost impossible for men in civilised countries to understand German mentality, but apparently reprisals in kind are the only form of argument certain to be appreciated on the other side of the Rhine.

London, April 20.

Weekly Summary.—President Wilson's call to arms to the United States reveals the unlimited extent to which the United States are contributing to the War. Food, ships, clothing, coal, arms, ammunition, railways, horses, mules, cattle: everything is to be furnished by the most adaptable, vigorous and inventive people of the world. The President said: “Food and war supplies must be carried across the seas no matter how many ships are sent to the bottom, and the place of those sent to the bottom must be supplied at once.” The British Houses of Parliament passed resolutions warmly welcoming the entry of the United States into the War. Mr. Bonar Law said it was the turning-point in the War. He hoped and believed that a change was coming and that the long night of sorrow and anguish was drawing to a close. Mr. Asquith said that

it was one of the most interesting acts of history; and Mr. Dillon, on behalf of the Irish Nationalists, associated himself with this voice. Lord Curzon said that it was a voice freedom that the freest people in the world had responded, in order to strike the final blow at the foe of humanity. A great and solemn service on the occasion of America's entry into the war was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, attended by the King and Queen, members of the Royal Family, and the American Ambassador and his staff.

Austria has made a fresh bid for a separate peace with Russia. The proposal was made in a public declaration of “conformity of aims.” It is even these two belligerents, but no specific terms were named. The whole of Russia and the Allies scoffed at this intrigue, and at Austria's professed attachment to the principle “of rights of nations to decide their own destiny.” Russia has reiterated her adherence to the Pact of London whereby all the Allies bind themselves to make peace together. The hopeless Russia away from her Allies are measures of the enemy's desperation.

Extensive food strikes have taken place in Berlin and other cities on the admission of Germany. There have been a spontaneous outbreak of two hundred and fifty thousand strikers in Berlin alone. Press appeals to people not to become nervous are increasingly frequent.

The uses to which the Germans are putting their dead are causing a thrill of horror throughout Great Britain and the Allied nations. The *London Times* and *Daily Mail* have printed photographic facilities of a message to the Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger* from Herr Rohner, its correspondent at the front, wherein he refers to the “captive utilisation establishment.” He states that the fat here is turned into lubricating oils, and that other products of the dead are used for pig's food and manure. His only comment is: “Nothing can be permitted to go to waste.” The *Daily Mail* says that the Germans have established a limited liability company which turns the dead into dividends, and that it is known as the German Fat Conversion Company, with its head works at Gerolstein.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the famous English writer, gives striking figures which show how completely the British soldiers have mastered the Germans during the war. The Germans have thirty four thousand British prisoners, while we have close on seventy thousand Germans. Our total losses in guns number seventy, whereas six occurred during the Mons retreat, while our capture of German guns amounts to about four hundred. The superstition of Prussian supremacy never rested on any firm basis, and now it has been destroyed for ever.

The great British and French offensives since April 9th has resulted in the capture of 31,700 prisoners and 317 guns.

More hospital-ships have been torpedoed by the Germans, and the Allies have carried out a reprisal air raid on Freiburg, where considerable damage was effected.

The latest figures of the submarine campaign indicate no increase in that menace, the number of ships sunk being about the average of the past few weeks, and far below the figures hoped for by the Germans.

Greece and Spain.

Athens, April 13.—The Government is beset with political and financial difficulties. There is a severe shortage of revenue from the territory occupied by the Venizelists and huge losses from the German torpedoing of Government ships. Also there are the Entente's complaints of the Government fostering armed bands in the neutral zone. M. Zaimis is likely to replace M. Lombras as Premier.

London, April 11.—Spanish press comments reveal a distinct cleavage of opinion in respect of the situation created by submarinism. The Liberal organs strongly favour vigorous action thereon and emphasise the solidarity of national unity and the necessity of national unity and patriotism. On the other hand the Conservative journals strongly oppose intervention, declaring it would ruin Spain without being in any way decisive.

London, April 13.—Reuter is informed Great Britain has agreed to supply Spain with 150,000 tons of coal monthly while Spain has agreed to export to England as much iron ore as is required and part of the orange crop and to allow Britain to charter Spanish ships.

Petrograd, April 14.—The Ministry is considering the State control of the coal supply and intends to create a Ministry of Labour, and revise the Customs tariffs.

Bolivia and Brazil.

La Paz, April 14.—Bolivia has severed relations with Germany.

Rio de Janeiro, April 13.—The Government has ordered the seizure of all German vessels in Brazilian waters as a precautionary measure. It is officially announced that it has been decided to arm Brazilian merchantmen sailing in the danger zone.

Rio de Janeiro, April 14.—It is suggested in the newspapers that Brazil should send 200,000 infantry to Europe.

Human Corpse-Oil.

London, April 17.—It has been known for months that the Germans have been burning their dead. It now transpires that burning has developed into a regular industry of extracting oil from the corpses, which are afterwards crushed and used as pig food. A manure factory has been established in Rainalden Land corps arrive in bundles of a hundred. Men with long poles dropped them into a cauldron where they were boiled for eight hours and slowly stirred by machinery, and the resultant oil is yellowish brown colour is sent out in small casks. The employees of the factory are all soldiers, clothed in German uniforms.

German News.

Amsterdam, April 11.—A Vienna wire says General Steiner has been appointed Minister of War.

Amsterdam, April 14.—A Berlin wire says the Crown Prince has resumed command of the central group of armies on the western front.

Bread rations in Germany have been reduced by a quarter, but meat and potatoes have been increased.

Amsterdam, April 14.—A Berlin official says rumours that the Kaiser is ill are unfounded.

Amsterdam, April 13.—A Berlin authoritative statement says a German airman shot down on April 5 Lt. Robinson, V. C.

Other Actions.

Buenos Aires, April 11.—Official. The Argentine sailing ship *Monte Progreso* was sunk in European waters in a minute. An enquiry has been ordered. The incident has caused a great impression.

Athens, April 13.—The Greek steamer *Nestor*, with a cargo of wheat insured for 84 million francs, guaranteed by Government, has been torpedoed, although Germany was officially notified of her approaching arrival.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not necessarily endorse the views of our correspondents.

To the Editor of the “Siam Observer.”

Sir,
As everybody knows it is extremely difficult to find two persons in Bangkok who will give the same answer when asked “What is the time?” The consequence is that appointments are broken, though it would be hard to say which man's watch was at fault. A quarter of an hour, ten minutes or even five minutes are of consequence to a busy man, and therefore I venture to suggest a simple remedy for this chronic condition of things. Post Office No. 11 is the receiving office for European mails, and as Europeans generally are interested in the time of closing of mails, would it not be a simple matter for business houses in Bangkok to regulate their time by this Post Office? The office clock, etc., could be periodically corrected by a minute's use of the telephone and this would insure that at least a large portion of the community would be able to make appointments with the reasonable hope of their being kept to time.

Trusting you will find space for this in your valuable paper, and enclosing my card,

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHRONOS.

Bangkok, 23rd April, 1917.

The Greek Government has protested. Peking, April 14.—The Government has prohibited the navigation of the inland waters of China by vessels under the German flag and has withdrawn the homes of German pilots. Madrid, April 14.—The Government is sending a strong note to Germany on the subject of the torpedoing of the *Fulgencia*.

FRESH SHIPMENT JUST ARRIVED French Beer. Larue Freres Brand.

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"Marvel."

The Butler Who Made Good.

At the beginning of the war Lady Parbury addressed her men-servants on their duty to their country. In a neat speech she gave the footmen a month's warning and then turned to the butler. "You're over 40, Marvel, and soldiering is not in your line. The Duke of Amesbury will engage you. He said yesterday that you were a perfect butler, with the manners of a bishop."

"No doubt his grace intended it as a compliment, my lady. I hope it will not inconvenience your ladyship if I leave to-morrow."

"You can go when you like, Marvel, but the duke will not want you till he returns from town."

"I shall not enter his grace's service, my lady."

Two days later Private John Marvel was drilling among the recruits of the Wessex Fusiliers. He was a tall man, with hair turning grey at the temples. He maintained a dignified mien when called upon to do "spud" skinning and even humbler fatigues. His capacity for command was recognised and he was made a lance-corporal. A year later in France he was sergeant-major of his company.

The Wessex were in the push at Loos, and Marvel, as usual, was equal to the situation. He handled his men as calmly as he had directed the footmen at Parbury. A ruined pigsty offered an advantageous position, and Marvel beckoned a couple of men to occupy it. Then there was a roaring crash for a moment he was conscious of the dusty plain with the Fossees showing like pyramids through the haze, and then the world was eclipsed in blackness.

The night wind blew upon Marvel's face. He tried to get up, but found himself pinned beneath a tangle of woodwork—the roof of the pigsty, he remembered. He forced his way out, leaving most of his jacket behind him, and looked round. The roar of the artillery dominated his impressions—that and the glare of the cordite reflected from the clouds. In front of him red flashes, streaked with black, cut holes in the dark curtain which shrouded Loos. The ground near him seemed deserted, but behind him the rattle of machine guns and a continuous line of flashes marked the fighting front. It was evident that the wave of our advance had receded, leaving him in the German lines.

Marvel considered the situation. The mass of ruins to his left must be the Mill south of Loos, one of the points marked out for the Wessex to capture. Though they had retired from it to-

day, they would probably reoccupy it to-morrow. It seemed to offer shelter, and he made for it, picking his way among the shell-holes. He stepped over the body of a tall staff officer. It was before the staff had taken to trench caps, and the gold lace on the peak of his cap showed him a colonel. Marvel was bareheaded and coatless, and the wind blew cold through the rags of his shirt. He put on the colonel's jacket and cap and took his belt for the sake of the revolver and map attached to it.

As he approached the mill he heard English voices. Looking over a ruined wall he saw a plump little officer in captain's uniform sitting beside a shaded candle, looking the picture of helpless incompetence. This is not a common sight in the British Army, and for once Marvel was astonished. Yet the event had come about in the ordinary course of official routine.

Captain Battenby had been a subaltern in the piping times of peace and had gone out to the South African War. There he had been promptly Stellenbosched, and had retired with a medal and no clasp. He had been called up again with the rank of captain and had lately joined. Now he was the senior surviving officer of three companies of the Chertiot Rifles which had been cut off during our momentary retreat.

Battenby was consulting with his subaltern. "It's not a bit of good asking me where we are because I don't know. The only thing we can do is to lie low and keep quiet and hope they won't discover us till our chaps advance."

Marvel made up his mind at once. He went round to the door and walked in.

"You are the officer in command?"

The captain jumped to his feet and saluted.

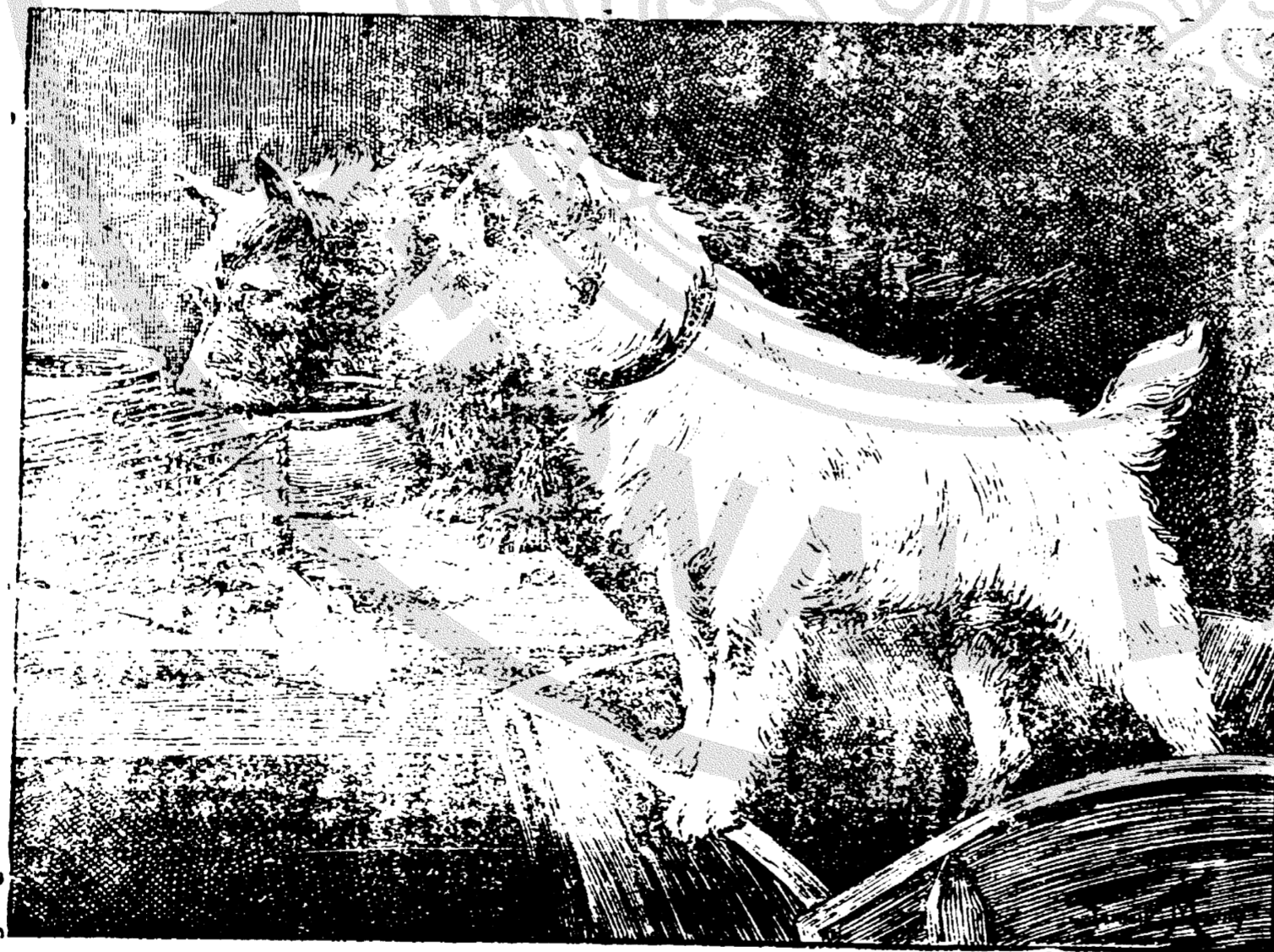
"Yes, sir. I have part of three companies of the Chertiot here."

"You must have gone wide of your line. I expected to find the Wessex. Sir Charles attaches great importance to this post being held till we resume our advance. What are your dispositions for defence?"

"Well, sir, I have hardly gone into that yet."

"Then I will assume command. If you will be good enough to assemble your company and platoon commanders I will give them their orders."

Battenby, immensely relieved, collected his officers. Marvel acknowledged their salutes. "You, sir, will take twenty men and collect cartridges from the dead and wounded along the trench to the right. You, sir, will do the same on the left. Bring in any wounded and be back in half an hour. You are the machine-gun officer? There



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C.

A change has come over the scene. We noted a few days ago the formation, in connection with the two Houses of Parliament, of two Committees on Foreign Relations. The budding parliamentarians of China can see the necessity for their own attention to foreign affairs; and as they are the representatives of the people it is fair to argue that they take this interest because it is a people's interest. During the past few days we have recorded the several steps taken in the formation of an International Affairs Commission. This body is distinct from the Waichiao Pu, which is an executive department of State. The new body is rather consultative, advisory and examinational. Its work will be to sift thoroughly the

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

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p.m.			
12.27	" N. Junction	"	1.23
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5.26	" Ootapao	"	8.06
6.17	Arr. Singora	Dep.	7.-
			a.m.

issues involved in international affairs, and to advise the Government on foreign policy. The list of its members, incomplete as it is, given in our columns lately, is but an indication of the increasing number of officials who have direct experience and knowledge of foreign affairs and of foreign ways of doing, and looking at, things. The greater number of them can contribute from their own experience of foreign lands, and all can contribute from their many direct relations, diplomatic and official, with foreign officialdom and diplomacy, something towards the formation of an intelligent and constructive foreign policy. For that purpose is the Commission formed and doubtless the desired and will be achieved.

The increasing complexity of China's international relations is evidenced every day. Thus, we publish a Renter telegram from Canton reporting that business circles in the City of Peking strongly advocate the opening up of diplomatic relations between this country and Siam, where there are millions of expatriated Chinese without protection from their home Government. Fifty years ago Siam was a negligible quantity except as a buffer state, but wise administration, assisted by foreign expert advice and executive, have raised Siam to a position of dignity amongst Far Eastern states of which her people and rulers have every reason to be proud. Her advance is in many respects more wonderful than that of Japan has been for Japan has not been surrounded on all sides by jealous neighbours. Just administration, equal opportunity, a truly open door, and a real appreciation of the value of foreign co-operation whether by means of capital or brains or any other contribution, have made Siam in a very few years a new and prosperous country. If China is to move forward she will have to show the same readiness to accept help and suggestion and to act on it; and she might do worse than seriously consider the proposal that has been made for the opening of diplomatic relations with so progressive a state. We are no believers in the Pan-Asia doctrine, which is simply an extreme form of inverted parochialism, but we do hold that the progress of the Eastern state may be, and ought to be, helpful to other Eastern states; and this will be so when such progress is a hand-in-hand progress of states each with an unimpaired sovereignty, as distinct from a procession in which one state, with a fancied superiority of its own, leads the way and carries all the banners and blows all the trumpets. The more numerous the bonds between China and her neighbours the better, provided these bonds be the bonds of friendly equality and not of self-assertive tutelage and domination on the part of the neighbours. One of the interest-

ing things about China's breach with Germany is that it has been made possible by American recognition of Chinese real equality and sovereignty as a state. President Wilson's Note assumed that; and on no other assumption could China have taken action. President Yuan received, at one time or another, "advice" from his neighbours. President Li receives an invitation. There is a marked difference between the two. The "advice" too often contained or implied a menace. Advisory jam did not entirely hide the bitter taste of the minatory pill. President Wilson's invitation was that of an equal. This, surely, is the beginning of a new epoch in China's relations. Let us no more have "advice": let us have invitation; let there be no longer an overbearing tutelage, but a frank

co-operation all round. This China deserves; and she rightfully expects her deserts.—P.D.N.

To India in Ten Days.

A journey from London to India in nine days and seventeen hours was suggested as a thing of the future by Mr. H. Charles Woods in a lecture before the Royal Geographical Society on the Baghdad Railway.

Since the completion of the Taurus tunnels last November it has been possible to travel 1,100 of the 1,500 miles between Constantinople and Baghdad by train. From a junction ten miles north of Aleppo the line from Constantinople—or, rather, from Haidar, on the other side of the Bosphorus—

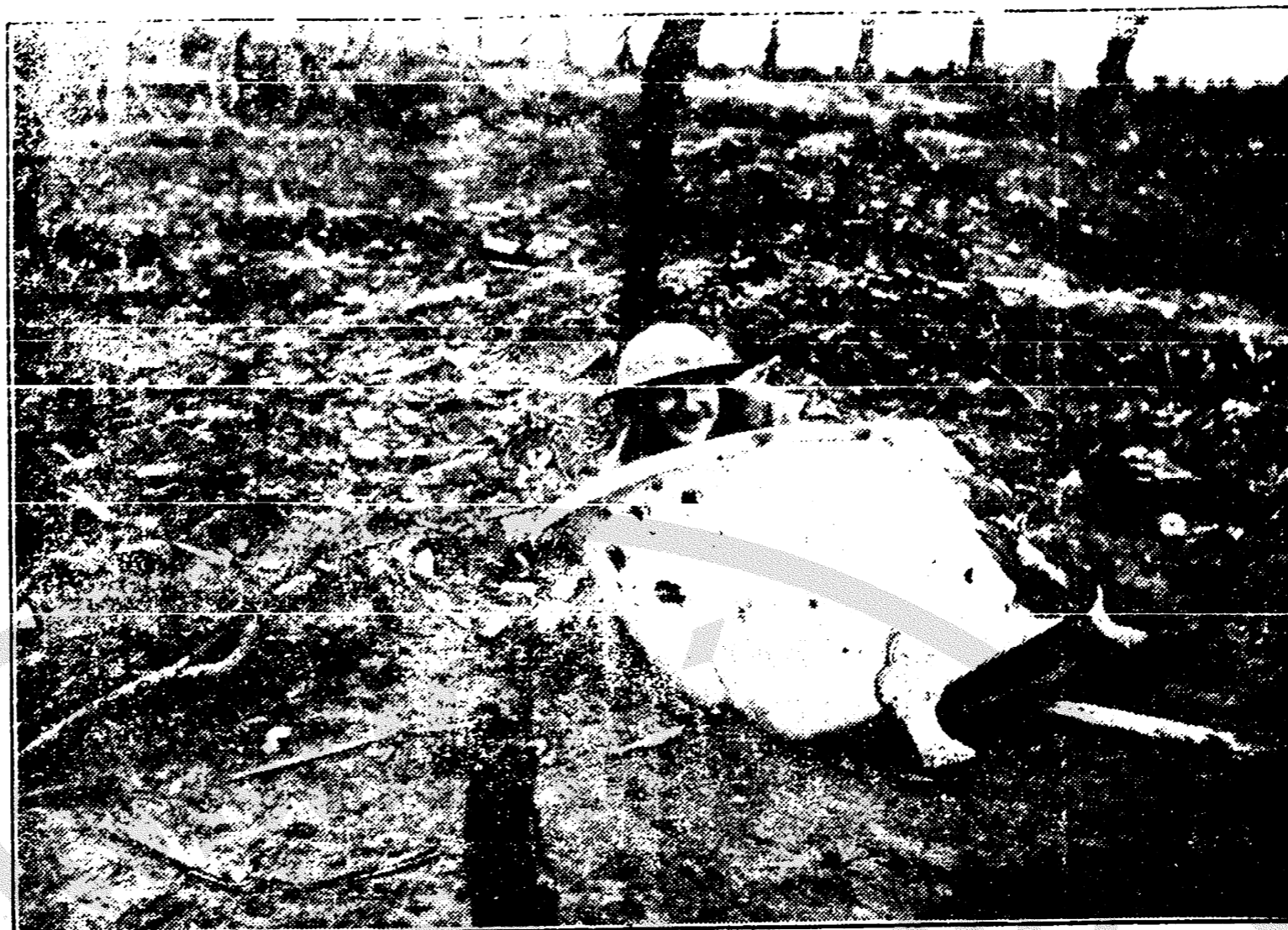
runs to Ras el-Ain, between the Euphrates and the Tigris. There is then a break of about 300 or 400 miles, and finally about another 100 miles of railway from Tekrit, or Semera, to Baghdad. Mr. Woods added:

"Before the war it was intended, on the completion of the railway to the Persian Gulf, to run a weekly express train from Constantinople to Aleppo, and subsequently a fortnightly express to Basra, on the Gulf. The speed was to be twenty-eight miles an hour, which meant that the journey from Constantinople to Basra would take about sixty-six hours. It would thus be possible to go from London to the Persian Gulf in six days, whence the sea journey to Bombay, say, 1,900 miles at twenty knots, would take about nine-five hours, or a total of ten days,

compared with fourteen days by way of the Suez Canal. "The Allies," said Mr. Woods, "must avoid a peace which will leave the enemy in control of this undertaking, which can easily be established on an international basis."

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