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VOL. 43. NO. 68.

BANGKOK THURSDAY, MARCH 22. 1917.

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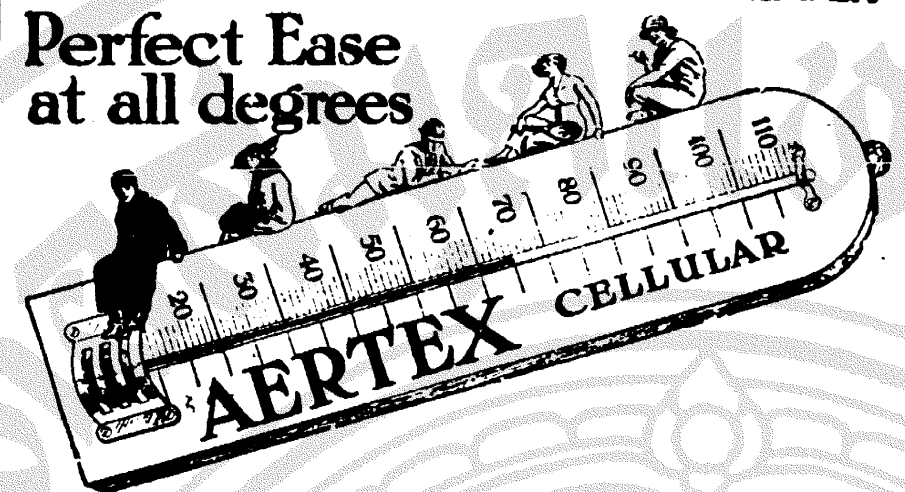
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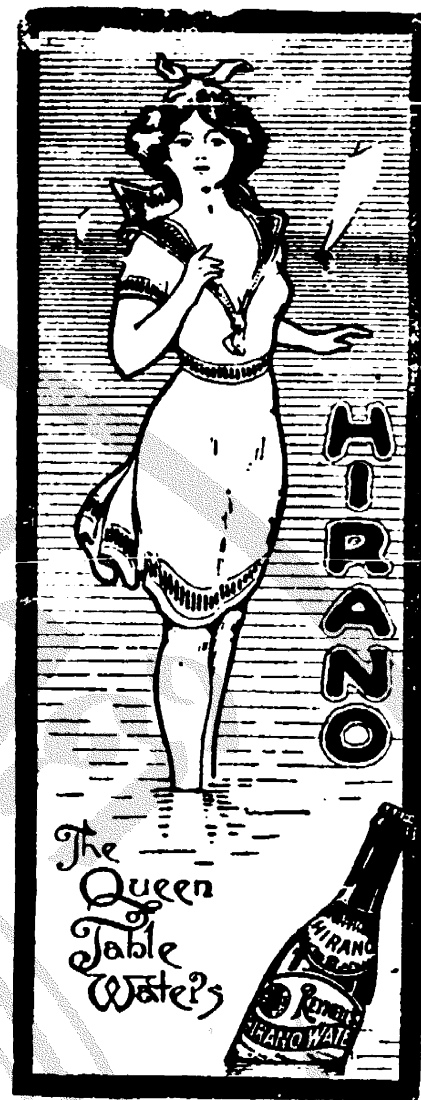
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British Politics.

London, March 13.—The closure was applied in the House of Commons yesterday evening for the first time since war began.

The occasion was the National Service Bill.

The Radical and Nationalist opposition was so vigorous that the report stage was not finished when the debate adjourned.

Mr. Pringle moved a new clause providing for Parliamentary control of the Director General's acts.

After a debate wherein "the servility of the Commons" and "Prussianism of the Government" were among the epithets employed by Mr. Pringle's supporters, Sir G. Cave intimated Mr. Neville Chamberlain agreed to the appointment of an advisory committee.

Sir G. Cave moved the closure amidst shouts of "gag."

Mr. Pringle's motion was defeated by 162 to 97.

A Nationalist motion that the act should not apply to Ireland was defeated by 148 to 76, on the reapplication of the closure. A Nationalist amendment providing for a separate Director General for Ireland was being debated when the Commons adjourned.

London, Mar. 13.—The Government has sent out an urgent whip on the occasion of "a vital division" to-morrow when Mr. Chamberlain moves approving India's war loan of a hundred millions. It is noteworthy that the motion does not refer to the increase in the cotton duties but it is anticipated that thirty Lancashire Commons will vote against the Government.

The Nationalists have not decided on their action.

The Labourites have decided that members vote as they please.

The Daily Chronicle is confident Mr. Asquith's followers will not oppose the Government, thus precipitating the calamity of a general election.

The Daily News lobbyist says the tariffists are intriguing to force an election.

It is rumoured Sir T. Cawley, Mr. Illingworth and Mr. Wallis(?) are threatening to resign because they were not informed of the Government's decision to increase the duties.

In an editorial the paper says the Government may survive to-morrow but their authority is fundamentally shaken.

The Times lobbyist says the political crisis is missing fire. The Lancastrians are divided and the Parliamentary free-trade committee does not participate in the agitation.

The French Front.

London, March 13.—A French communique says: The Germans west of Maison de Champagne yesterday evening violently counter-attacked hill 185. Our barrage and machine-gun fire stopped the enemy dead. We maintained all our positions.

We took prisoner 150 yesterday, including three officers.

An enemy coup de main in the region of Louvemont on the right bank of the Meuse was easily repulsed.

We made three coups de main yesterday evening on German trenches between the Aves and Aisne which our fire had wrecked, and brought back prisoners. The Germans continued to bombard Soissons. Enemy attempts to reach our lines at Crouy road and in the region Beaulieu further eastward failed.

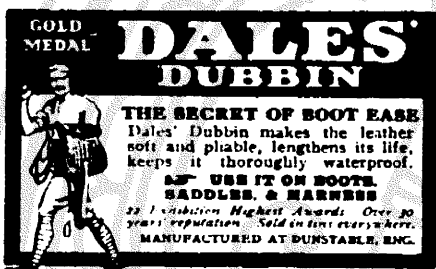
There was lively artillery fire in the sector of Troyon.

London, March 14.—French communique: In Champagne there was reciprocal artillery work in the sectors Maison de Champagne and Main de Massige. The Germans with bombs unsuccessfully attacked hill 185.

On the left of the Meuse there was reciprocal artillery activity.

We were apparently notably effective in the region of Avocourt and Hill 304 and on the right bank, northwest of Bezonvaux.

London, March 14.—Our guns and the steady pressure of our troops have compelled the Germans in France to resume their backward movement. The enemy has been pushed back under cover of the haziest weather in the last twenty four hours along a front of between four and five thousand yards and a depth which Reuter's representative at Headquarters says it is so far impossible to estimate. Our troops advanced right through a series of strong positions which the enemy had prepared in Loupart wood. We seized the village of Grevillers. Great activity prevails where the Germans were forced back. "There should be important news available by to-morrow," concludes the despatch.



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By ASVABANU.

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Favoured with instructions from **Mae See, Wat Koh, Sampeng** The undersigned will sell by Public Auction, **On Saturday and Sunday, the 24th and 25th instant at 2 p.m. sharp.**

The whole effects comprising of :—
Iron safes, Sewing machines, Show cases, Musical boxes, lamps, gun and revolver cases, leather straps, old China wares, tables, chairs, almirahs, Electric table fans, Screws, bolts and nuts, files, hammers, saws, door springs, Screw jacks large and small, filters, brackets, gimlets, steel bows, and a large quantity of vaseline and machine oil, and various other goods too numerous to mention.

TERMS :—
Delivery to be taken within 24 hours after sale against cash.
A deposit of 25% may be demanded on fall of hammer. No lots purchased to be removed during the time of sale.
For Further particulars apply :—
T. S. APCAR,
Auctioneer and Estate Agent.



Auction Sale.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.
13th March 1917.
Case No. 15/2459.

Re Phra Aphai Vanit a Bankrupt.

Acting under instructions from the Official Receiver in the above Bankruptcy the undersigned will sell by Public Auction on **SATURDAY** the 24th March 1917 commencing at 1 p.m. sharp at the house of the above-named bankrupt situate in the **KLONG POH YOME ROAD** at the corner of Pra-nuen Road leading to Bangkok Christian College, Bangkok, the **VALUABLE** household Furniture and other effects of the above-named bankrupt as follows :—

Upholstered arm chairs, almirahs, beds, teakwood furniture, clocks, glass wares, crockery, electric light fittings, bath room fittings etc., etc., etc.

TERMS : Cash against delivery.

For further particulars apply to the office of the undersigned, High Sheriff's Department, Ministry of Justice.

PHRA KORANI SRI SAMRUAT,
Actg. High Sheriff.
20—23



Notice.

Landed Property will be offered for sale at the Department of the Inspector-General of Finance, Wat Mueang Khao Lane, Bangkok, on the 24th, 26th, and 27th, March 1917 at 11 o'clock each day in lots as follows :—

On the 24th. March.

(1) Land at Phra Khanong.

On the 26th. March.

(1) Land at Klong Ban Khamin.
(2) Garden land at Klong Phasi Charoen.
(3) Garden land at Bang Kru.
(4) Paddy field at Paknam.

On the 27th. March.

(1) Three plots of paddy field on Klong No. 23 at Nakornayok.
(2) Paddy field on the east bank of Klong No. 16 at Chacheingmao.
(3) Paddy field on the west bank of the same Klong.

Full particulars can be obtained from the above mentioned Department.

7—14, 19—27.

Notice.

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Ex s/s "Kirin Maru"
"Pushimi Maru"
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are hereby notified that same have arrived per s.s. "Kuala" on 20th inst., and will be landed and stored at our Wharf, at the risk, expense and responsibility of consignees.

No Claim will be entertained unless made within 10 days after final discharge of cargo will be liable for go-down rent.

Goods not cleared within 3 days after final discharge of cargo will be liable for go-down rent.

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Rabbits
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Boiled Ham on cut
French Ham "
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Fresh Australian Butter and Best English Margarine No. 1 & 2.
Pure Beef Dripping in 2lb Tins.
H. B. Bulmer & Co's Champagne Cider.

Picnic cases containing Ice, Aerated Water and Well Water for travellers by Railway or boat delivered free at Railway Station or any Bangkok landing.

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"An Easy First"

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The Siam Observer

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1917.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Many Bangkok residents must have had their attention attracted just lately by the flag-decorated building of a Chinese Insurance Company recently established here. This is the second office of the kind, with a Chinese head office, which has been opened within quite a short while. The principle of insurance is an admirable one, and offers advantages and benefits that are too well understood to need dilating upon. Nevertheless, however beneficial it may be to the community at large, the fact must not be overlooked that an Insurance Company is essentially not a philanthropic institution but a business concern designed to earn profits for its proprietors or shareholders. That Insurance Companies do make profits—and very large profits—is perfectly well known. Not even such gross mismanagement as was disclosed in connection with the "Big Three," as Americans familiarly term the New York Life, the Mutual and the Equitable Companies, could affect the soundness of those huge institutions. But the greatest proof of the stability of the modern insurance company has been afforded to us in that during nearly three years of almost universal warfare and its consequent strain upon every species of financial organisation there has been no single instance, so far as we are aware, of any insurance company having succumbed to this strain. At the outbreak of war there were gloomy forebodings in this direction, but, so far as events have shown, insurance companies do not appear, to the uninitiated at any rate, ever to have been seriously endangered, or even very materially affected, by the unexpected burdens suddenly thrown upon them. This happy state of things is undoubtedly to be attributed very largely to the wise measures of legislation by which in most countries the fabric of insurance is controlled. Definite rules for the investment of the companies' funds are laid down and enforced. In Great Britain each company issuing policies must deposit with the Board of Trade every year its revenue account and balance sheet for the preceding year, and must at fixed intervals cause an investigation of its financial condition to be made by an actuary, the public being furnished with the detailed results in forms prescribed by law. In the United States the laws exact still more minute and much prompter reports to the insurance departments of the Government; and every annual statement is required to show the results of an actuarial investigation. The enormous popularity of insurance in recent times—a popularity which bids fair to increase, also—and the wide-spread ramifications of the insurance companies in national finance, make it a matter of the highest importance for every State to exercise a close supervision over all insurance institutions existing and operating within it, in order to afford adequate protection to the material well-being of the people. Hitherto provision has not been made in this country for exercising this species of control, but we trust that it will not be long ere His Majesty's Government will rise to the occasion and safeguard the interests of Siam by legislating in the direction we have indicated. For example, it should be made obligatory for an insurance company to invest a certain proportion of its capital in this country, following the course that England, acting on its customary principle, adopted, to take a concrete instance, with regard to the China Mutual Insurance Company, which was called upon to invest a sum of £25,000 in British authorised securities.

U. S. "Armed Guard" For Merchantmen.

Washington, Mar. 18.—The State Department has given notice to foreign diplomats that an American ship traversing the German submarine zone will carry an "armed guard" for the protection of the vessel and the lives of persons aboard. It is expected that European vessels plying to an American port will take advantage of the new ruling of the State Department permitting vessels to be armed fore as well as aft.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

New Ads.—Aertex Cellular Garments for the hot season at Messrs. Whitesway, Laidlaw and Co., Ltd.

FORMAL notice is given in another column of the 26th Ordinary General Meeting of the Siam Electricity Co., Ltd., on the 29th instant.

THE s.s. *Kuala* will leave from the Borneo Company's wharf at 2.30 p.m. sharp, on Friday the 23rd inst., and should arrive in Singapore on Monday afternoon.

THE Post and Telegraph Department reports that Malay Peninsula main line is still interrupted, Nongkai line is not properly working between Makheng and Bangkok. Other lines are available.

A REMARKABLE outburst appears in the Kolnische Zeitung, which pictures the war which will overtake the Fatherland if the enemy forces Germany to her knees, particularly fearing the result should "the hordes of Australia, Canada, Tonkin, and Senegambia" break down the steel barriers and inundate the German land.

Mr. P. A. Anthony, Mr. P. H. Henshaw and Mr. R. H. Bilke, General Manager, Traffic Manager, and Chief Accountant and Auditor of the F.M.S. Railways, who are at present staying at the Oriental Hotel, have most probably come up here in order to confer with Mr. Gittins, Controlling Engineer of the Royal State Railways, regarding the linking up of the Siamese and F.M.S. systems.

HAVING endured the rain and wind for more than 680 years, the Jyozoji temple, of the Shingonshu sect, Kogamachi, Ebisaki prefecture, Japan, was reduced to ashes by fire on February 21. Together with the temple building a large warehouse in which were stored a large number of rare Buddhist relics was also burned down. The two buildings contained several articles which are important in the study of Buddhism and which cannot be replaced. The temple was built in 1229 and was one of the oldest temples in Japan.

The Perseus.

Madras, February 28.—The following appears in Colombo papers. The loss of the *Perseus* was due probably to either a floating mine or internal explosion. Of the crew, one European and two Chinese are missing.

"Trench War Will Soon End."

London, Feb. 28.—The German Imperial Chancellor, concluding his speech in the Reichstag yesterday, said: "Since my last speech the military situation has hardly changed. Everywhere our fronts have been made stronger. Our brave soldiers look with full confidence upon their leaders."

The German Guns.

London, Feb. 28.—A correspondent states that the hostile artillery fire has been erratic, but not heavy in the aggregate since the withdrawal began. Big guns on railway mountings beyond Bapaume remain in position and together with some high velocity guns have been dropping bouquets on the evacuated ground; but the mass of the German field guns is now probably a long way back.

Americans and German Banks.

The Zurich correspondent of the "Petit Parisien" states that financial circles confirm the report that the German authorities have ordered the banks to make it difficult for Americans to withdraw their money. Many Americans in Germany are almost unable to buy food. The Deutsche Bank refused Mr. Gerard a loan.

New German Submarines.

The "Agenzia Ribera" states:— "When Germany announced her new submarine campaign she had 40 new and improved submarines in German ports awaiting the signal to put to sea. In addition she sent 30 new submarines to Pola (in Austria) and Constantinople. It is understood that there are 35 German and Austrian submarines now operating in the Mediterranean."

550 U-Boat Destroyers Launched in America.

New York, February 18.—Five hundred and fifty submarine destroyers, built in American shipyards for the British Navy, have been completed and sent to England, according to information coming from a reliable source here. Each of these destroyers is operated by an oil motor, is 80 feet long, and can steam 700 miles at the speed of 22 nautical miles per hour. Each crew consists of ten men. The destroyers are armed with quick-firing guns, whose calibre is three inches. It has already been fully proved that these destroyers make formidable enemies for the submarines.

THE Great War.

America Virtually at War.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, March 20. Reuter's Washington correspondent wires:—In view of the ruthless submarine warfare it is unofficially admitted that a state of war virtually exists between America and Germany.

[Received via Saigon.]

British Advance.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, March 19. Reuter's Correspondent at the British headquarters in France, wires:—Our troops are entering Peronne.

Russian Success.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, March 19. Petrograd.—The Russians have entered Van.

British Economy Campaign.

About 62,000,000 war saving certificates have been sold in Britain this year in connection with the economy campaign. Harrow School and Eton College have been placed on war rations, and the "candy shops" there are not allowed to sell cakes, pastry, and other similar articles which would enable the boys to exceed Lord Devonport's allowance, although purchases of jams and sweets are permitted. The Eton boys, including Prince Henry of England and Prince Leopold of Belgium, have been ordered to limit their expenditure on new clothes.

Personal.

London, March 14.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught is dead.

[The late Duchess was Princess Louise Margaret, daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, and was married on March 13, 1879. She was fifty-seven years of age. During the period of the Duke's vicereignty in Canada she suffered from internal trouble, and this apparently contributed to the fatal result of the attack of measles she contracted recently.]

London, March 14.—Count Bernstorff has arrived in Berlin.

London, March 13.—Silver is at 36½d. and more freely offered but no demand. The market is quiet.

American News.

London, March 15.—Reuter learns that reports are reaching London that a large number of Germans are leaving the United States for Mexico.

London, March 13.—The New York World says that the capture of Baghdad is the handwriting on the wall of the Turkish Empire. The Herald says it is the beginning of the end of Prussianism.

New York, March 13.—Capt. a Hindu student of Columbia University, has been charged and admitted to be in \$5,000, charged with conspiring with von Papen to organise a military expedition against India. It is stated that von Papen paid huge sums to Capt. to go to Japan in connection with the project.

Sea War.

London, Mar. 14.—The American ship Algonquin 4,800 tons, from New York to London, flying the American flag and carrying foodstuffs, was sunk by shellfire and bombs by a German submarine. The latter opened fire at a range of three miles firing twenty shells without warning. The commander of the submarine refused to tow the lifeboats to land but the crew were saved.

Washington, Mar. 14.—The Federal railway unions which have been threatening a huge strike for an eight hours day have now written to President Wilson that if the nation is involved in war, while the negotiations with the employers will continue, they will co-operate with the Government to the fullest.

The Sinkings.

London, March 14.—The Admiralty says the arrivals at home ports during the past week were 1,985 and sailings 1959. There were sunk of steamers over 1,600 tons, thirteen, and under 1,600, four; unsuccessfully attacked, 16. Three merchantmen under 1,600 tons reported last week as sunk have since been towed in.

Paris, March 15.—Official: The arrivals at French ports during the week ended March 11 are 707 vessels, exclusive of coasters and fishers. The sinkings are two in number.

Seizure of Steamer by Germans.

A German Submarine Ruse.

The following is an extract from a Continental exchange:

Copenhagen, 25th January.—The crew of the Danish steamer "Gerda" gave their evidence to-day at the Marine enquiry. It was stated that on the 16th December the steamer met a German U-boat in the Bay of Blacey which stopped her and ordered the Captain to go on board the submarine with his papers. He was thereafter detained on board the U-boat and a lieutenant with 8 men went on board the steamer. The Danish flag was lowered and the German flag hoisted in its place, and the crew was told that the steamer would be sent to Hamburg as a prize. The course was, however, shaped in a southerly direction, and during the following days three steamers were sunk. Each time the "Gerda" approached one of these steamers the Danish flag was hoisted by the Germans in charge aboard her. Amongst the steamers sunk there was also a Danish steamer. Gradually the crew of the "Gerda" was increased to 62 from sailors captured on the steamers sunk. On the 19th December there was no more water on board. The U-boat thereafter landed the crew outside Cape Finisterre. When the crew took to the life boats a German officer stood at the gangway holding a revolver, and threatened to shoot any one who took any clothes with them beyond what they stood up in. When the crew had got into the boats, the "Gerda" was taken outside territorial waters and sunk.

The German Withdrawal.

London, Feb. 28.—"La Liberté" correspondent in Northern France says that examination of the German positions shows that the retreat was fairly precipitate. The enemy put out of action several heavy guns which he lacked time to remove. When the British communiqués display less reserve, and when the circumstances preceding the German retreat are known, the extent of the British effort will astound everyone.

The "Journal" and the military critic of the "Gaulois" agree that the Germans are probably retreating in order to husband their resources. The latter adds the opinion that the German plan is to remain on the defensive before General Gough, in order to be able to make the maximum effort in an offensive against the French armies.

German Captain and Damaged Liner.

Boston, February 19.—Captain Pollack of the Norddeutscher Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie admitted to-day in the witness-box in the Federal Court here that he had caused to be disabled the machinery of the liner under the direction of a man officially connected with the German Embassy in Washington. The Kronprinzessin Cecilie was seized on February 2 by a United States marshal, who had held her nominally in his possession since the institution of a suit by a bank for the non-delivery of large amounts of gold at the outbreak of the war, when the liner returned to the United States to avoid capture.

Captain Pollack refused to give the name of the member of the German Embassy, on the ground that such information might cause the witness to be tried for treason should he return to Germany.

The directions for crippling the vessel were given in the presence of the New York Superintendent of the Norddeutscher Lloyd.

As a result of this testimony, a bond of \$200,000 was required from the Norddeutscher Lloyd line to guarantee that repairs should be made on the vessel and that there should be no further damage done to the ship.

Salonika.

London, March 15.—Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters at Salonika says the British line southwest of Doiran has been advanced a thousand yards, over a front of 3,500 yards, bringing the trenches in places to within 100 yards of the enemy's. Operations, including digging themselves in and fixing entanglements, have been carried out at night-time. The new line shortens the front by straightening the salient of Horseshoe hill which was always exposed, secondly it strengthens the defences by an extra line of trenches, and thirdly it facilitates future raids upon the enemy.

London, March 15.—A French Macedonian communiqué says: There is great patrol and artillery activity on the Monastir front.

The Italians advanced near hill 1050. An Austrian attack between lakes Prepsa and Malek was repulsed with loss leaving prisoners.

Salonika, March 15.—British airmen bombed the German air-camps at Hudova as a reprisal for German airmen bombing the hospital at Vertekop and killing two British nurses.

Amsterdam, March 13.—From an authoritative source it is stated that Falkenhayn and his staff have arrived at Triermon. There is much speculation about this.

Smuts On South Africa.

London, March 12.—General Smuts has arrived for the Imperial War Conference.

London, Mar. 12.—General Smuts, interviewed by Reuter, said that the only thing delaying the absolute end of the German East African campaign is the prevalence of the rainy season till May, when the Germans will be compelled to surrender or enter Portuguese territory, where the Portuguese are quite prepared to handle them. The enemy consisted of the remnants of an army only. Practically all the South African white troops had departed, the native battalions who had been raised owing to the unfavourable climate, remaining to finish up.

General Smuts spoke in high terms of the natives' magnificent infantry work. He said that they would shortly be available for service elsewhere. Nothing had given him greater pleasure than Mr. Long's statement that no German Colony would return to Germany. The mere suggestion was preposterous. He shuddered to think what would happen to the natives if any part were returned. The natives supported us magnificently. Our prestige in the east would suffer (it they were again put under German rule.)

The American Temper.

London, Feb. 5.—A special correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle," who arrived recently in New York, compares the American temper at the present time with that of Britain in August, 1914, and he adds: "There is a strange dramatic resemblance to Britain's calmness and resolution. Restraint does not mean lukewarmness, for Americans are under no illusions as to the country's unity. It is equally remarkable how vast a majority of German Americans avow that Americanism constitutes the nation's solidarity."

The New York "Tribune," commenting on President Wilson's policy of patience, observes that if war ensues America will fight with a whole-souled intensity that will probably amaze Germany.

Captures of Submarines.

M. Raymond Lestonnat, who contributes weekly notes on the naval side of the war to L'Illustration writes in that journal: The British, with their nets, which are of two kinds, have captured an important number of small submarines. One is used to bar the entrance to the channels and ports, and the others, of lighter fabric, are employed by trawlers to drag the bottom of the sea. This involves much time and the employment of many vessels; but the number is increasing. Shells are little used, because a submarine must be hit within a minute of being sighted. Instead, bombs are used, being dropped vertically from a hydroplane, which hovers over the place believed to be haunted by submarines. These are sighted quickly when the atmospheric conditions are favourable. Many submarines have thus been sunk. Destroyers and patrol boats are also in use. A powerful grenade, which explodes at a pre-arranged depth, works automatically by contact of the water with the fuse. The grenade has an explosive area of 25 yards—sufficient to twist the hull plates of a submarine. Patrol boats endeavour to get above a submarine; then throw out grenades at 25 yards intervals. When the stain of oil appears on the surface there is good reason to believe that a submarine has been sunk; but captains of patrol boats are extremely reserved. They never claim a submarine sunk unless they have definite proof.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Ordinary General Meeting of the SIAM ELECTRICITY COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at its Office on Thursday, 29th. March 1917 at 5.30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving and adopting the Directors' Report and Accounts for 1916, declaring a dividend and transacting other ordinary business.

W. L. CRUT,

Vice-Chairman.

22-29

The Best Advice

To give to a person suffering from Headache or Neuralgia is to use a remedy that will give instant relief.—Like a touch of the wizard's wand Little's Oriental Balm acts on these painful disorders. The effects are simply marvellous. One application and the pain subsides as if by magic. It has been done thousands of times without a single failure.

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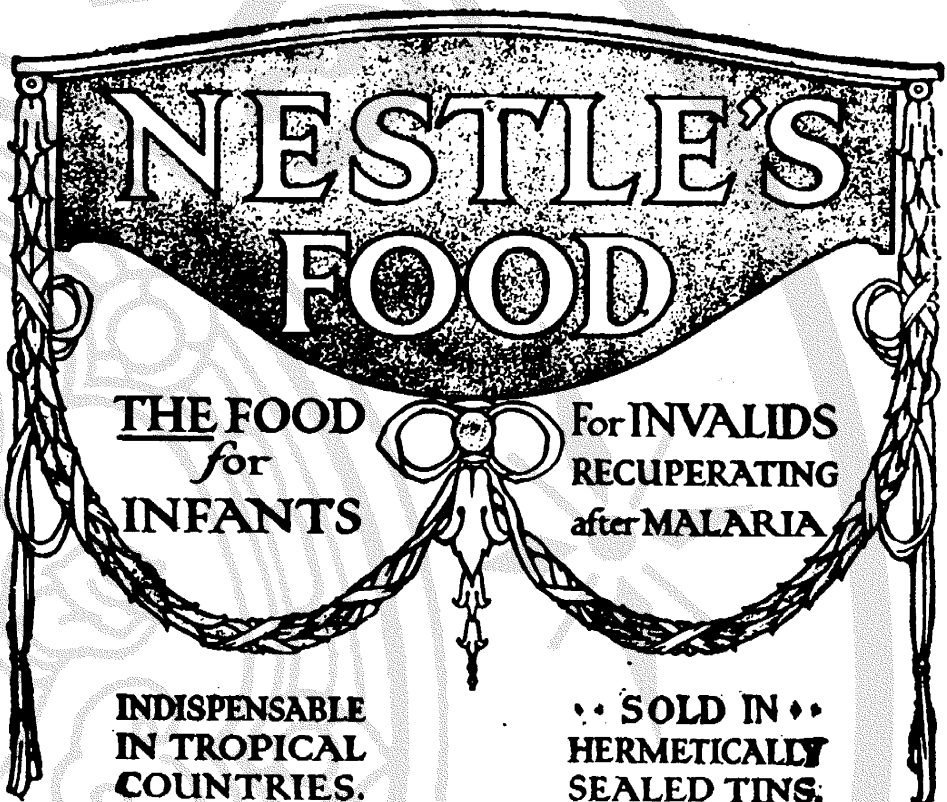
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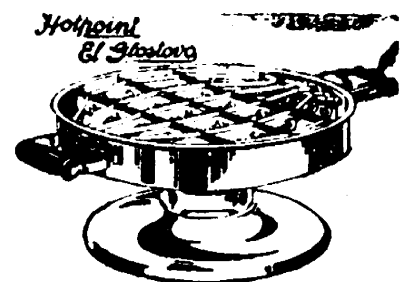
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The Crisis in Russia.

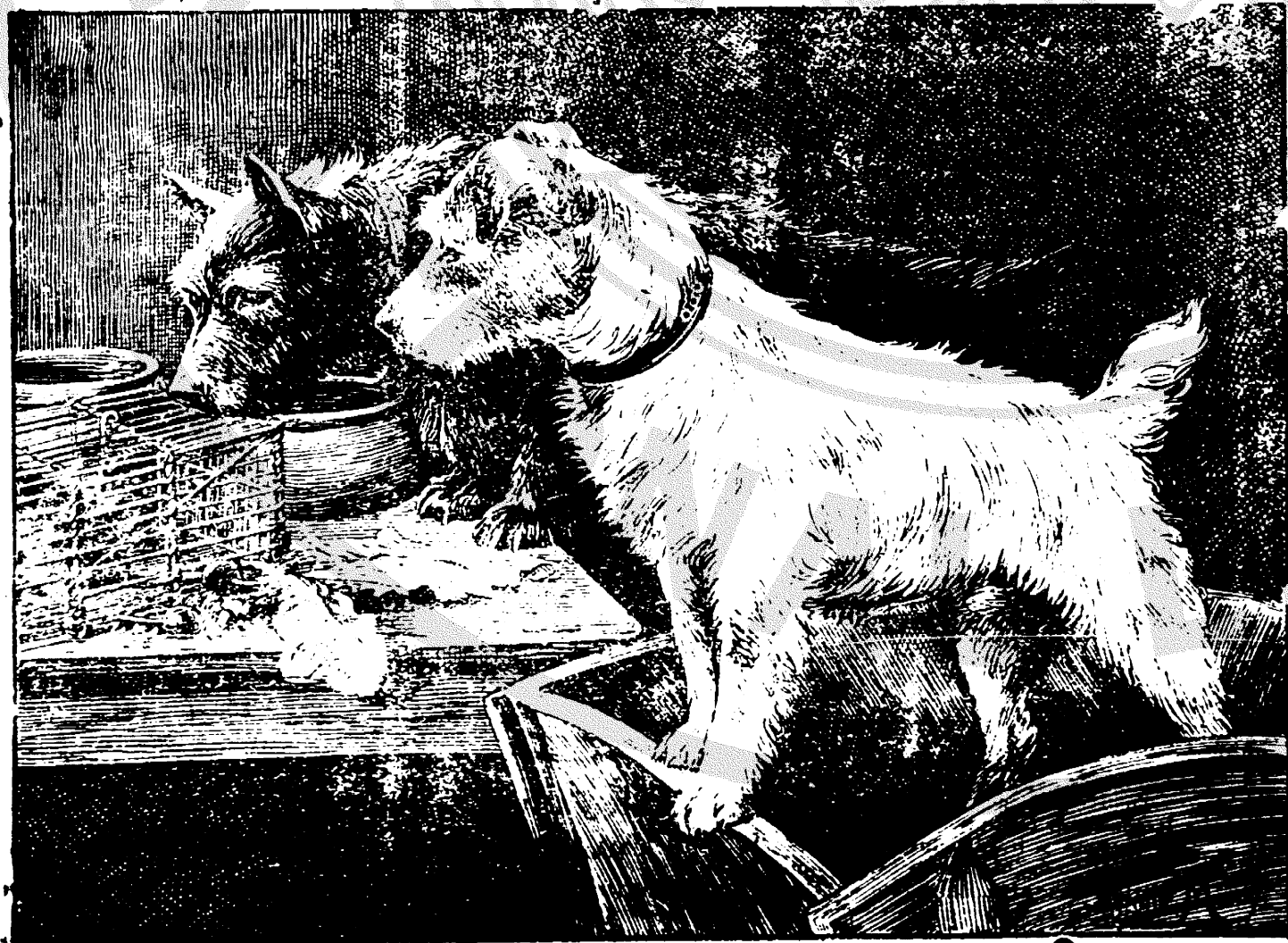
The Allied Conference at Petrograd, to which Lord Milner has gone on behalf of the British Cabinet, meets at a critical stage in Russian affairs. One does not envy the Allied delegates. It is not for them to say what Government Russia shall have, but with that Government once more dominated by the "dark forces," any decisions at which the Conference arrives might almost seem written in water. The pro-German tendencies of the men who have recently come back to power in Petrograd are not a matter of speculation. There is only one opinion about them in Russia, and it is within the knowledge of diplomats alike in London and Paris, in Vienna and Berlin.

Since the war began, the Russian nation and Army have shown a magnificent constancy. It was natural that they should, seeing that the Serbian quarrel affected in the first instance Russia only, and the other Allies had taken up arms for her, not she for them. Nevertheless, we do right to admire the spirit shown by this great people in face of heavy reverses—the "courage never to submit or yield," which had so often saved them at earlier crises of their history. They are full of that courage still, and if their country ever falls away from the common cause, it will not be by their will, but against it. This is true of the Army, and it is true of practically the entire nation—not only the humbler classes, but the business men, the educated men, the nobility, and many high officials—all, in fact, except a tiny clique of reactionary officials and ecclesiastics.

Where, then, lies the danger? The British Press has hitherto been very discreet about it, and, up to a point, with good reason. The French newspapers, though more under Government control, show far less reserve, and of course the neutral Press in countries like Switzerland and America discusses the situation freely. There have been two main attempts in Russia to bring about a premature peace. The first was in the spring and summer of 1915. These then chiefly in fault were General Sukhomlinov, the Minister of War, and the reactionary Ministers, M. Shcheglovitov and M. Maklakov. Whether, and in what degree, the Premier, M. Goremykin, was an accomplice is uncertain. At any rate, public opinion was deeply stirred; the Duma had to be convoked; General Sukhomlinov was accused of high treason and sent to the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul; and MM. Shcheglovitov and Maklakov were dismissed in disgrace. With patriotic principles once more in the ascendant, and the War Office in the honest hands of General Polivanov,

the danger disappeared for the time. But the "dark influences" had still their foothold at Court, and as 1916 went on they revived. The appointment of M. Sturmer as Premier gave them a tool. When subsequently the Tsar dismissed M. Sazonov from the Foreign Ministry and M. Sturmer took his place there, the second main attempt at a separate peace followed. It was elaborately conceived; besides the secret negotiation with Germany there was a policy to excite an abortive popular insurrection, which could be pleaded as the excuse for peace. Both plans were carried a long way, but M. Sturmer was overthrown when the Duma met in November, not so much by the mere thoroughness of Professor Milukov's exposure of him as because the heads of the Army took a definite stand on the side of the nation's representatives. Unfortunately the victory of the national idea was far from complete. The "dark influences" continued to enjoy Imperial favour. M. Sturmer, though removed from the Premiership, was appointed to the highest Court position. Moreover, General Alexiev was at the same time removed from his post as Chief of the General Staff. Last, but not least, M. Protopopov, the former Octobrist and prominent politician in the Duma's Block, who had joined the Sturmer Government and been active in the special measures designed to provoke an abortive revolution, was retained as Minister of the Interior, and is still.

Things went on in this unsettled way till the end of the year, when on December 17/18 there occurred the murder of Rasputin. Of all the "dark influences" who who their importance to the Tsarist's favour, Rasputin was probably the most disreputable and the most powerful. He was done to death, not by popular revolutionaries, but by members of the Imperial family, who were sick and ashamed of his influence, and justly apprehensive of the disaster which its continuance might entail for the whole dynasty. But the immediate result was a fierce reaction. *Primo averso non deficit alter*; there were other Rasputins about the Tsarist's besides Rasputin himself; and their counsels, which prevailed, were counsels of alarm and revenge. M. Trovov, the Prime Minister, was dismissed, and an undistinguished member of the Tsarist's circle, Prince Nicholas Golitzin, took his place. The Ministers of Education and Justice were replaced by reactionaries of the deepest dye. General Shuvaiev, the War Minister, who had continued the efficient tradition of General Polivanov, and whose speech in the Duma during the November crisis was the overt symbol of the union between people and Army, was dismissed a few days later. The Council of Empire, which before Christmas



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had passed a resolution endorsing the Duma's demand for a Ministry with a clearly-defined responsibility for its acts, and ready to co-operate frankly with the legislative Chambers, had its membership violently remodelled, and was given M. Shobeglovitch for its President. M. Sturmer was brought back to the Foreign Office as "adjoint" to the Minister. The Duma's recess was prolonged for a month. All this was done although the Duma's demand for the shelving of these very "dark influences" had been endorsed not only (as we have said) by the bureaucratic Council of Empire, but by the Congress of Nobility although not only the circumstances of Rasputin's murder but much that has since happened in connection with it, show that outside her own home the Tsarina's policy finds little support among members of the Imperial family; and although the whole proceedings are in the nature of a violent rebuff to the perfectly well-known wishes of the Army.

But for the war it would seem inexplicable that the Court, with no support but that of a few ecclesiastics and officials with sinister records, should be able thus to override the wishes of the people, the Army, the nobility, the bulk of the bureaucracy, and even the Grand Duke. The difficulty, of course, is that anybody who might otherwise be inclined to organize a revolution is deterred by reflecting that the Court would at once make it the excuse for concluding peace. Indeed, for the past eight months or more the "dark influences" have been trying to provoke disturbances for this very purpose. The famine in food and fuel, which is causing so much hardship in the Russian cities is believed to be in a considerable degree the deliberate work of the Ministry of the Interior. These are problems that Russia must work out for herself. It is not for her Allies to say how or by whom she shall be governed. They would certainly not be so impudent as to take sides for or against any internal revolution. Where, however, they have a real direct, and legitimate concern is over the return to power of men like M. Shobeglovitch. These men's previous treacheries to the Alliance are not in doubt. They are even known in considerable detail. They are not matters of ancient history, but policies to which there is every reason for supposing that the two statesmen are still committed. Under such circumstances it must be extraordinarily difficult, to say the least of it, to maintain the desirable degree of mutual confidence between the British, French, and Italian Governments and a Russian Ministry over which these men and their abettors exert the greatest influence.

The one relieving feature is the text of the Tsar's own recent declarations. His message to the Army at Christmas, and more recently his receipt to the new Prime Minister, set forth his adhesion to every sound policy. The only question is how much verbal adhesion is worth, in view of his

persistently dismissing the faithful champions of these policies and appointing in their stead persons whose hostility to them is well-known throughout his dominions. There is here an apparent contradiction between profession and practice, which we scarcely conceive it possible to keep up much longer. Whichever way it is resolved, it must be resolved before very long. — "New Statesman."

[The above, though written before the recent culmination of events in Russia, gives so excellent a picture of the political chaos which existed at Petrograd, that we offer no apologies for publishing it. — Ed.]



Notice.

A new railway landing at Ayuthia station is now completed and will be leased out for the year 2460 for steam or motor launches.

Tenders are requested to send their offers up to 25th inst. to

ROYAL RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.
Bangkok, 17th March 1917.

17-24

Notice.

Messrs. Kiam Hoe Hong & Co., Ltd. beg to notify their clients and public that in future, their premises will be closed on every Saturday from 4 p.m.

17-24

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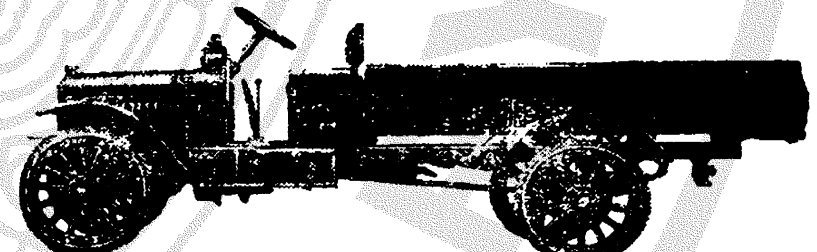
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TIME TABLE.

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

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

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

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

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Capture of Baghdad.**Turkish Admission.**

Amsterdam, March 12.—In the Turkish Chamber Enver Pasha admitted the Turks had retired in Mesopotamia and Persia for military reasons.

London, March 12.—To-day's Turkish official does not mention the fall of Baghdad.

Paris View.

Paris, March 12.—There is great delight at the fall of Baghdad. Experts assert there is reason to believe General Maude has organised the advance and disposed his forces of men and material in such a manner as not to be at the mercy of an enemy counter-movement.

Russian Advance.

London, March 12.—A Russian Communiqué says: We occupied Rasatun in the region of Hamadan on March 8 after routing the Turks, who withdrew to Hadjiabad hard pressed by us.

We repulsed enemy gas attacks southwest of lake Narotch and southeast of Kovel.

Fleet Admiralty.

London, March 12.—The Press-bureau says that Admiral Beatty, through Sir W. Robertson, has conveyed to General Maude the Grand Fleet's admiration and congratulations for his magnificent achievement in capturing Baghdad.

Account in Parliament

London, March 12.—In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law stated: The occupation of Baghdad is the sequel of a series of brilliant operations carried out by the British and Indian troops with dash and determination for which no praise is too high (cheers). He recalled that after severe fighting on the right bank of the Tigris in which heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, General Maude's crossing the river near Kut imperilled the safety of the Turkish army in Mesopotamia. The enemy immediately retired towards Baghdad. General Maude pursued them with the utmost energy. Not only were large numbers taken prisoner and quantities of material of all kinds taken during the pursuit, but there is good reason to believe that nearly two thirds of the whole of the enemy's artillery either fell into our hands or was thrown into the Tigris.

On March 6 our cavalry came up with the Turkish rearguard twenty-seven miles from Baghdad. After the action the Turks abandoned the prepared position. On March 7 the cavalry found the enemy in a position on the Dila river, an affluent of the Tigris, a formidable obstacle over thirty yards wide and not fordable. General Maude therefore withdrew the cavalry and brought the infantry into action. The

Turks meanwhile received reinforcements from Baghdad and a formidable resistance was offered on the Dila, covering Baghdad from the southwest.

On March 7 General Maude bridged the Tigris at the point of its confluence with the Dila. Thereupon the cavalry crossed, supported by the troops on the right bank, and despite the heat and dust the troops brilliantly marched eighteen miles, finding the enemy strongly entrenched six miles southwest of Baghdad. The enemy were immediately driven back two miles. On March 8 the troops fighting on the Dila established a footing on the northern bank. During the ninth and tenth the troops on the right bank, despite the dust storm, pressed their advantage, driving back the enemy to

within three miles of the outskirts of Baghdad. Simultaneously the troops gained a passage across the river, forcing the enemy upon Baghdad, which they entered on the morning of the eleventh.

The Difficulties.

General Maude thus completed the victory of Kut by a pursuit over a hundred and ten miles in which the Tigris was crossed thrice (cheers). The pursuit was conducted in a country destitute of supplies and despite the commencement of the summer heat. Apart from the skill and vigour of the leadership and the valour and endurance of the troops, both British and Indian, such operations are only possible in such a country after thoroughly systematic and very careful arrangements for supply. The fact that General Maude

was not only able to feed and munition his army and assure proper attention to the sick and wounded, but was able to report he can provide necessities for the army in Baghdad, reflects the greatest credit on the general staff and all concerned (Cheers).

Mesopotamia.

London, March 14.—Mesopotamia Official: We have advanced our detachments thirty miles up the stream from Baghdad, and steps have been taken to prevent the flooding of the city during the coming rise of the river. The small arms factory in Baghdad is in good repair and the railway workshops contain uninjured, good and serviceable machinery, five locomotives and rolling stock. Our guns which were lost at Kut in 1916 were recovered at Baghdad.

London, Mar. 14.—The Press-bureau says the King, in acknowledging the congratulations of Allied sovereigns and heads of state on the capture of Baghdad, expresses the confident belief that the success advances the Allies another stage on the sure road to victory.

A German Despatch

London, March 14.—German Official. German seaplanes on March 12 bombed two Russian destroyers which approached Constanza and forced them to return. Two hits were clearly observed on one destroyer, one forward and one aft.

A bottle of ale brewed by King Edward in 1902 was sold at Swansea for £15 2s. 6d. for a war charity.



BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE WESTERN FRONT.
Wiring parties going up to the front line after heavy rain.

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