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VOL. 43. NO. 82

BANGKOK TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917.

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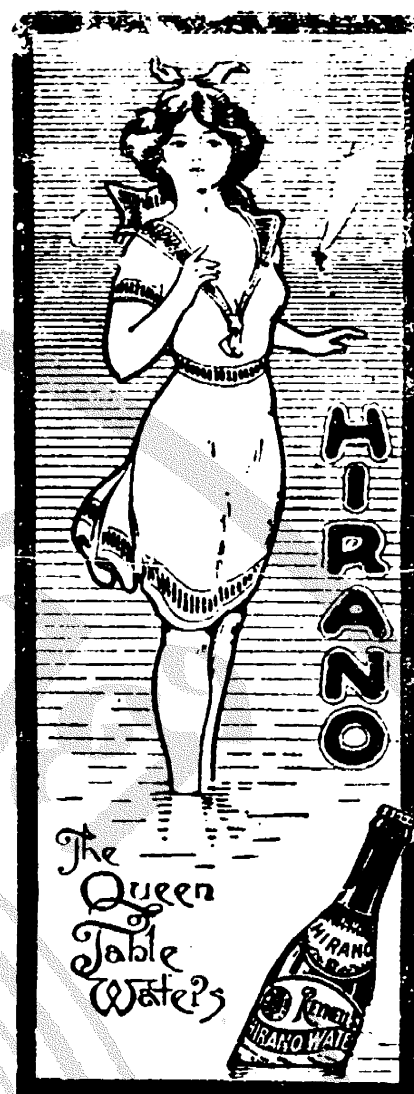
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My first sensation was of a smarting way up inside of my nose. This quickly extended to my throat, and then, as my lungs suddenly seemed filled with red-hot needles, I was seized with a spasmodic coughing. Coughing up red-hot needles is not exactly a pleasant operation, and the pain was intense. Mercifully, it was only a few minutes before a sort of stupor seemed to come on, but even as I passed into half-consciousness I was aware of my outraged lungs revolting, in heaves that shook my frame, against the poison that had seeped the trench. With some of my comrades the fighting instinct was the last thing that died, and I have a sort of a recollection of two or three of them clutching at the parapet and firing from cough-shaken shoulders off into the depths of the rolling yellow gas clouds. One had toppled over beside me and still kept pumping shots from the bottom of the trench. I remember hazily trying to kick his rifle out of his hand as he discharged it over my ear, and, failing to locate it with my foot, recall groping instinctively for my old wrench and trying to disarm him with that. My last recollection of this stage of things was the shock of feeling the wrench-handle swing backward harmlessly for lack of my two shrapnel-smashed fingers to steady it. I had rolled and writhed in the agony of the pain of the gas in my lungs, in a pool of slush in the bottom of the trench, and it must have been the lying with my face buried in the shoulder of my wet woollen tunic that saved my life. Most of my comrades were quite unconscious when the Huns, with their heads protected by baggy snoots, came pouring into the trench, but I had enough of senses left unparalysed to be able to watch them in a hazy sort of way. The horrible quietness of the thing was positively uncanny. Always before the enemy had charged with yells (it is directed in their manual that they do so, though, of course, a man gives tongue naturally on such occasions from sheer excitement), but now they were hardly making a sound. Probably this was by orders, so that no more air than was necessary should be taken into the lungs, but even when some of them did try to speak the words were so muffled that it must have been very hard to make them out. The Huns were pretty excited at first, and started right down the trench bayoneting one body after another. But before they got to me an officer stopped them for a minute and evidently gave them to understand that they were to confine their butchery only to

those that tried to resist. Two or three of our boys, who had not gone under entirely but had not sense enough to understand the uselessness of putting up a fight, made a few groggy passes at the Huns, and paid the penalty. I lay quiet and played possum, but got a nasty prod in the groin when one of them turned me over with his bayonet to see where I was wounded. There was still a good deal of gas in the bottom of the trench, and between that and loss of blood I must have lost consciousness entirely about this time. I have some memory of being carried in a stretcher, and of passing through one or two dressing-stations where my wounds were washed and bandaged. My connected recollections begin after my waking up in a hospital—well back from the front but still not out of the sound of the guns—that was evidently devoted entirely to 'gas' cases. The ward I was in was filled with men from my own regiment, but what interested me specially—as soon as I was able to take any interest in anything beyond my own suffering—was to observe that a great many Germans were also being treated in the same hospital. I never did find out just how these happened to be 'gassed,' but, presume it was either through accidents to their apparatus or from their 'snoots' being faulty. At any rate, the Germans had evidently prepared in advance for 'gas' cases, and the chances are that they pulled through a good many of us who might have died had we been taken back to our own hospitals, where they had, at that time, small facilities for handling that kind of trouble. The ward was kept as hot as a Turkish bath, and some of our chaps thought this was done with the idea of making our agony worse. One of them, who jumped out of bed, threw up a window, got a lungful of cold air and died the same night, gave us a proper object-lesson why the air had to be kept at close to blood heat. Some of them also thought that a kind of stuff they gave us to inhale made us worse rather than better, but that was only their imagination. If there was any real ground for complaint it might have been on the score that the doctors tried a good many experiments on us, because this was the first chance they had had to study gas poisoning on a large scale, but that was no more than we could have expected.—Lewis R. Freeman in the Cornhill Magazine.

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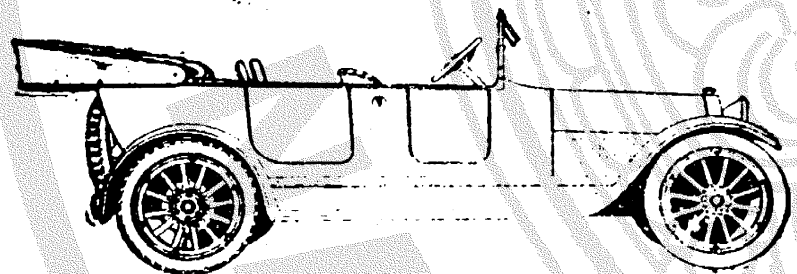
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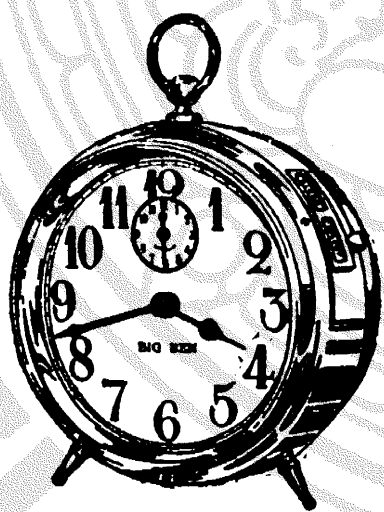
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The Siam Observer.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

In his declaration of foreign policy before the Japanese Diet this year, Viscount Motono, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Terauchi Cabinet, said that it was his Government's desire to secure a cordial entente with China, to assist China in her numerous necessary reforms, and to do it all without violating Chinese independence or trading in any way upon Chinese susceptibilities. Remarks of this kind have frequently been forthcoming from the Mikado's Ministers, but in the past the actions of Japan as regards China have often been anything but consistent with the suave speeches of her politicians. The fact has not inspired China to repose excessive confidence in Japanese avowals of lofty and disinterested friendship, and China may well be pardoned if she shows herself disposed to look askance at her neighbour's overtures. Nevertheless there are signs which indicate that Viscount Motono's outline of his country's policy has made a considerable impression upon the Chinese mind—or rather, let us say, upon the minds of China's political leaders, since it is not to be supposed that the general run of Chinese understand questions of international relationship or even trouble themselves to any particular degree with regard to them. Japan, unfortunately, has succeeded in gaining more enemies than friends amongst the concert of nations. This is not a little due to the jealousy evoked by the spectacle of her rapid rise to a place amongst the constellation of Powers which count in the political world. More especially is this so in the East, and it is not too much to say that her reputation stands far higher in Europe than in the East. It is possible, however, that she does not merit all the suspicion with which she has often been regarded in connection with her attitude towards China. Viscount Motono claimed that the reforms which have been accomplished in China during the last few years were due greatly to the assistance given by Japan, and he avowed that his country was exerting itself in all good faith on behalf of China. He asked why it was that China entertained ill-feeling towards Japan, and went on to answer the question himself by ascribing it to the tendency which the Japanese Government in past times had shown to meddle with the domestic political affairs of China. "Our attitude," he added, "has won the ill-feeling of our neighbours in China, and at the same time made the Powers suspect our sincerity. I can declare here that the present Ministry will never resume such a policy. The Imperial Government will endeavour to make China realise our sincerity. Whether China will repose her trust upon the Imperial Government or not must be decided by China herself." He asserted that Japan had no intention of rendering assistance to any particular party in China, but was solely desirous, while maintaining friendly relations with China as a whole, of seeing that country preserve its territorial integrity and proceed along the path of progress. Everyone who wishes to see China become established on a firm footing amongst the nations will echo Viscount Motono's sentiments. The confession of former interference in China's affairs does not come as news, but it is of great interest as being an admission officially made, and an adverse criticism of the Okuma policy. That the interference was reprehensible is not to be denied. Japan made an attempt to save the Imperial Manchurian House in 1911. She gave military advice and financial support to the rebellion against Yuan Shih Kai in 1913. In the hour of China's pressing need, Japan hampered the country's leaders still more by objecting to the release of the Salt Gabelle surplus. She afforded protection and encouragement to the Shantung revolutionaries and the bandits of Mongolia. These and other acts may not all have been authorised by the Japanese Government, but they were at least the

outcome of the policy adopted in general by that Government. It gret for this is now expressed, and with it is coupled the assurance that a complete reversal of such policy is to ensue. Whether China's confidence in Japan has been alienated beyond the capability of being restored remains to be seen. We do not think so if Viscount Motono's are spoken in all sincerity on behalf of his country; but we are of opinion that, even so, much time will elapse ere mistrust of Japan is eradicated from the Chinese mind.

**Court Circular.**

GRAND PALACE,
Monday, April 9.

Tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. His Majesty the King, with members of his suite, will leave the Capital from Bangkok Noi Terminus by special train for Bejrabri on his official tour through the Southern Provinces.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The s.s. *Katong* left Singapore at 8 a.m. on Monday the 9th inst., and may be expected to arrive at the Borneo Company's wharf on Thursday morning about 9 a.m.

The Post and Telegraph Department reports that Malay Peninsula local line is still imperfectly working between Surashtradhani and Bangkok. Nongkai line is in order as far as Korat. Other lines are available.

We regret that through a printer's error an announcement appeared yesterday in our columns that the Misses Rosenberg had "left Singapore for Hongkong by the s.s. *Drafar*." The notice should have read that the ladies named left Bangkok for Hongkong by the steamer mentioned.

We have received from the Royal Siamese State Railway Department a "Souvenir of the Opening of the Southern Line." This is a booklet of handsome appearance, embellished with many beautiful illustrations from photographs. It will provide an excellent souvenir, as its name implies, of the eventful opening of this railway line. We think it somewhat of a pity, however, that the letter-press was not reproduced in English as well as in Siamese, for the special benefit of the foreign residents who are unacquainted with the language of the country, and who might also like to obtain copies and send them to friends abroad.

B. B. W. N. G.

Members are reminded that the meeting to-morrow is at Mrs. Tully-Christie's house, and that Dr. Hillyard will kindly give a further account of his experiences at the Front.

The following meeting will be held on May 9th, at Mrs. Heyward Hays' house at 4.45, as usual.

French Red Cross Lottery.**List of Winning Numbers.**

No. 14818 (Series B.) wins the first prize of \$40,000.
No. 25575 (Series D.) wins the prize of \$15,000.
No. 23047 (Series A.) wins the prize of \$10,000.
Series.
No. 05898 ("B.")
" 28942 ("A.") win each \$5,000
" 20865 ("J.")
" 24502 ("C.")
" 07967 ("D.")
" 13227 ("H.") win each \$2,000
" 19406 ("G.")
" 22093 ("I.")

The following number: 12335 of each of the 10 series wins \$1,000.
The following numbers 06231 and 06352 of each of the 10 series win \$500.

The following numbers: 24650, 15682, 12077, 24189, 25036, 01344, 02790, 11274, 13381, 07491, 05087, 00199, 29980, 13575, 11579, 02408, 03213, 28226, 08621, 28279, 02837, 00365, 04147, 07230, 01677, 08016, 27879, 07439, 27660, 27702, of each of the ten series win \$100.

The Russian Front.

London, April 3.—Wireless. Russian Official. We threw back at the bayonet point enemy attacks which penetrated our trenches in the regions south of Bluzet and south-east of Vladimir Volynsk.

One of our seaplanes raiding Derkas was compelled to descend. The aviators attacked a Turkish schooner with machine-guns and the crew abandoned the schooner, which the aviators boarded and sailed for Russia. They encountered a heavy storm, but they arrived at the Djarlegach peninsula, whence they returned to Sevastopol by torpedo boat.

THE Great War.

Wilson's Message to France.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 8.

President Wilson has sent a message of thanks to M. Poincaré, adding that the United States are happy to contribute in establishing the rights of independence of mankind and safeguarding the true principles of human liberty.

French Communiqué.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 8.

Yesterday there was artillery fighting. Reims yesterday had 7500 shells dropped on it; fifteen civilians were killed, and many wounded. To-day in Belgium at two points in the enemy position in the region of Lombardzyde we found a number of corpses. We repulsed enemy attacks in the Vooges district, and in Alsace in the neighbourhood of Lartitzen. The British advanced in the St. Quentin district, and reached Fremoy-le-petit.

Belgian Relief Steamer Sunk.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, April 8.

Copenhagen.—The Norwegian steamer *Camille*, carrying wheat for the Belgian Relief Commission, has been torpedoed. Two persons were killed.

Russian Society Senation.

Petrograd, April 4.—The wife of ex-Premier Stepanov has attempted to commit suicide.

No Place for Peace Cranks.

London, April 4.—South Aberdeen, by-election has resulted in Mr. Fleming (Coalition) polling 3,283 votes; Mr. Watson (Independent) 1,507; Mr. Pethick Lawrence (Peace) 333.

Barrow Strike Ends.

London, April 3.—The Barrow strike has been settled and work is being resumed to-morrow. The ballot was 1,623 for resumption and 1,250 against.

Using German Labour.

London, April 3.—The Press bureau says arrangements have been made to license on parole selected civilian war prisoners for employment in essential industries. Both employers and prisoners will be unconnected with war operations. The ordinary rate of wages will be paid and they will report themselves bi-weekly to the police.

New Munition Workers System.

London, April 3.—The Press Bureau states that Mr. Henderson, presiding at the Conference of the trade card scheme, stated that in view of the army's need, the necessary release of a large number of munition workers was foreshadowed in a new system whereby indispensable would be undisturbed.

More Peace Offers.

Amsterdam, April 3.—The Lokal Anzeiger states the Central Powers are going to make a new peace offer.

London, April 3.—The Lokal Anzeiger's announcement is the culmination of a combination of circumstances. Firstly Count Czernin's statement cabled on March 31; secondly the Vorwaerts' declaration that the Central Powers are working "for an honourable and satisfactory peace"; thirdly the significant Imperial gathering at German Headquarters. There is a very prevalent belief that Austria is putting pressure on Germany to end the struggle which is threatening to ruin both countries and endanger the dynasties.

Basuto Loyalty.

Captain, April 3.—A special session of the Basutoland Council was convened in order to discuss the High Commissioner's appeal for native war-labour overseas. It concluded a most satisfactory appeal and embodied a scheme for the recruitment of native labour in Basutoland similar to the South Africa Union scheme but controlled by the Basutoland Council. The Basuto chiefs and councillors offered their services and the paramount chief has ordered other chiefs to tour the country, directing the natives to prepare for European service. The paramount chief in a speech to Council dwelt on the Basuto land prosperity and declared "as King George's house was able it was the duty of all good friends, including Basutos, to quench the flames."

American War Spirit.

Washington, April 3.—Crowds outside the Capitol cheered frantically as President Wilson entered and left, and during his address Congress roared cheer after cheer, in an ecstasy of patriotism, and vociferously applauded the declaration that the United States would never submit to injustice, and also the advice that the United States should help the Allies financially and otherwise and the declaration for an army based on universal service. When the President asked for permission to declare a state of war all present rose yelling approval. At the conclusion of his address all, even a few supposed pacifists, rose, waving handkerchiefs and small flags and the cheers were deafening.

The Great Speech.

Supplementing the United States intentions with regard to co-operation with the Allies, the President said it was necessary to organize and mobilize all material resources to supply war materials to serve the national needs in the most abundant yet most economical and efficient way possible. An immediate and full equipment of the navy, especially in dealing with enemy submarines was necessary. He was of opinion that a new army should be raised by conscription and also by the authorization of a subsequent additional increment of half a million men if necessary. He suggested as the proposed principle governing the raising of money that we should endeavour to keep the nations in the field supplied with materials.

After a scathing reference to selfish autocratic power and a desire to ensure the observance of the principles of peace and justice among really free and self-governed peoples, he said "We are not quarrelling with the German people but we feel sympathy and friendship towards them. It was not with their impulse, knowledge or approval that their Government acted on entering war. War was determined on like a war of olden days when the rulers in no way consulted the peoples and waged war in the interests of dynasties or little groups of ambitious men accustomed to use their fellowmen as pawns and tools."

He sarcastically said that self-governed nations did not fill neighbouring States with spies or launch intrigue to bring about a critical posture of affairs which would give an opportunity to strike and make a conquest. Cunningly contrived plans of deception or an impression carried from generation to generation could only be worked out and kept from light within the privacy of Courts or behind the carefully guarded confidences of a narrow privileged class.

The President in the course of a powerful argument in support of recognition of democratic rights glowingly referred to the Russian revolution and greeted the new regime as a fit partner for a league of honour.

The Russian people in all their naive majesty had now been added to the forces fighting for freedom, justice and peace.

It had been proved in courts of justice that intrigues coming perilously near the disturbing of peace and displacement of industries had been carried out at the instigation and with the support and personal direction of German officials, proving that Germany proposed aggression at its own convenience. The interception of a note to the German Minister in Mexico was eloquent testimony of such evil designs. We are accepting this challenge knowing that such a Government will never be a friend but a menace to the security of all democracies. We are accepting battle with this natural foe and shall if necessary spend the whole force of the nation to nullify its pretensions.

We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no territorial aggrandisement or indemnities, but we are making sacrifices freely as champions of the right of mankind and we shall be satisfied only when these have been secured.

President Wilson postponed discussion of relations with Vienna, indicating that at present there was no fighting with Austria-Hungary. America possessed no enmity towards the German people and did not seek to injure or disadvantage them, but was in armed opposition to an irresponsible Government, devoid of considerations of humanity and right, which was running amok. America would have opportunities to prove her friendship towards the millions of German birth and sympathy living in America. We should be proud to prove this to all German-Americans if they stand with us.

Disloyalty, however, would be firmly suppressed. Outbreaks might occur but they would be local and uncountenanced except by a lawless and malignant few.

President Wilson concluded: The necessity of thus addressing Congress is a distressing and oppressive duty. Maybe there are many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead. It is a fearful thing to lead this great and peaceful people into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars. Civilization itself is seemingly in the balance but right is more precious than peace. In fighting we dedicate our lives and possessions with pride. We are privileged to spend our blood and might for the principles that gave America birth and the happiness and

peace which she has treasured. God helping her she can do "no other."

How America Can Help.

London, April 3.—The passage in President Wilson's speech regarding co-operation with the Allies runs: This will involve the utmost practicable co-operation in council with the Governments warring with Germany, and as incident thereto the extension to those Governments of the most liberal financial credits in order that our resources may as far as possible be added to theirs. This will involve the organization and mobilization of all the material resources of the country, to supply war materials, to serve the incidental needs of the nation in the most abundant, economical and efficient way possible. It will involve the immediate and full equipment of the navy in all respects, particularly in supplying it with the best means of dealing with enemy submarines.

It will involve the immediate addition to the armed forces of the United States of at least half a million men, who should be chosen on the principle of universal liability to service, and also the authorization of a subsequent additional increment of an equal force as soon as it is needed and can be trained. It will involve also the granting of adequate credits to the government, which should be sustained as far as it can equitably be sustained, by well conceived taxation in order to avoid as far as possible the serious hardships of inflation likely to arise from vast loans. In carrying out these measures we should keep constantly in mind the wisdom of interfering as little as possible with the duty of supplying nations already warring with Germany with materials they can obtain only from us or by our assistance. They are in the field. We should help them in every way to be effective there.

Washington, April 2.—The administration resolution tabled yesterday evening was introduced into both houses and consideration deferred till to-morrow. It is expected to pass both houses with an overwhelming majority.

New York, April 3.—The newspapers of the United States irrespective of political affiliation unanimously eulogize President Wilson's address as a complete expression of the Nation's ideals.

Madame Breshkovsky.

"Babushka," the Russian word for "little grandmother," is the half-endearing, half-respectful name applied by revolutionaries to Mme. Katherine Breshkovsky, just liberated from Siberia. Though born in a well-to-do family, and married to a Liberal land owner, Mme. Breshkovsky did not hesitate to forsake her husband and her children to enter the ranks of the first "propagandists" among the peasantry. That was in the early seventies. For doing this she was arrested, kept in prison for three years, and then arraigned with 193 others before a special tribunal, which sent her to the Siberian mines for four years. In 1881 she made her escape, but was caught and sentenced once more to four years' hard labour, with subsequent settlement in Siberia for life.

But no amount of hardship and vile treatment could break her indomitable spirit and in 1897 she simply took the train back to Russia, and, ignoring the authorities, helped to establish the Revolutionary Socialist party. Subsequently she undertook a lecture tour to the United States to obtain funds for the "cause." Her arrest in 1907 followed on the denunciation of the notorious spy and agent-provocateur Azef. Arraigned once more—this time with M. Nicholas Tchaykovsk—she was condemned in 1910 to banishment to Siberia. Though an old woman, broken in health, she made a daring attempt to escape later.

The Vatican and Germany.

The *Corriere della Sera* says that there is reason to believe that the Vatican has already presented a remonstrance to the German Government against the new submarine policy.

I am able to state on good authority that Mr. Wilson's action in severing relations with Germany has caused an enormous impression in Vatican circles. The Pope's allocation at the Consistory, deploring certain barbarities which the whole world knows are practised only by the Central Empires, and his marked silence at the time of the German peace proposals were symptomatic of the growing distinction which the Vatican is making between the moral causes of the two groups of belligerents. The change of tendency was further accentuated by Cardinal Gasparri's letter to Cardinal Mercier regarding the Pope's efforts on behalf of the deported Belgians.

According to my informant, the latest German threat of unlimited piracy has completely alienated what Vatican sympathies remained with the Germans, and, followed as it is by the firm attitude of the United States, it is bound to create tension in the relations between the Pontiff and the Germans. Three foreign Nuncios are now waiting to cross the seas, and it should not be forgotten that during the war the Pope has had to depend almost entirely on American Catholics for his enormous war benevolences.

PADDY REPORT FOR APRIL 9.
Nasnan 2230 Coyans at Tes. 66.90 each
Samruang 570 " " " 54/68 "
Namuang 310 " " " 57/59 "
Total 3410 Coyans " " "

The Samudasar.

The April edition of the "Samudasar" to hand opens with the second instalment of the "Adventures of Captain Lawless" with further illustrations by Mr. Harrop. The writer has promised another chapter in next month's issue. "On Duty" is a contribution in verse by Meh S. Lunon while Phya Pariyati Tamatada gives an interesting account of the Siamese fleet in the country of the Mohuns in former times. A good deal of the pages of this volume is taken up by a description of the ways and methods of destruction used in modern warfare. The article is amply illustrated.

THE FRUIT SEASON.

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

The Song of the Butterfly.

Prithce, friends, be never mournful:
Make life one long holy day!
Of all troubles be ye accounted:
Join me in gay roundelay!
Let the years in jubilation
Beat their time with rhythmic joy;
Suffer naught of tribulation
To instil them with alloy!
Care and sorrow have no portion
In the lot of such as we.
Yielding ne'er to their exertion,
Merrily our weird we'll tree.
Carpe diem! Hear the ringing
Note from all the rosy bowers!
Tis the echo of our singing,
As we take the Path of Flowers.
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Meteorological Data

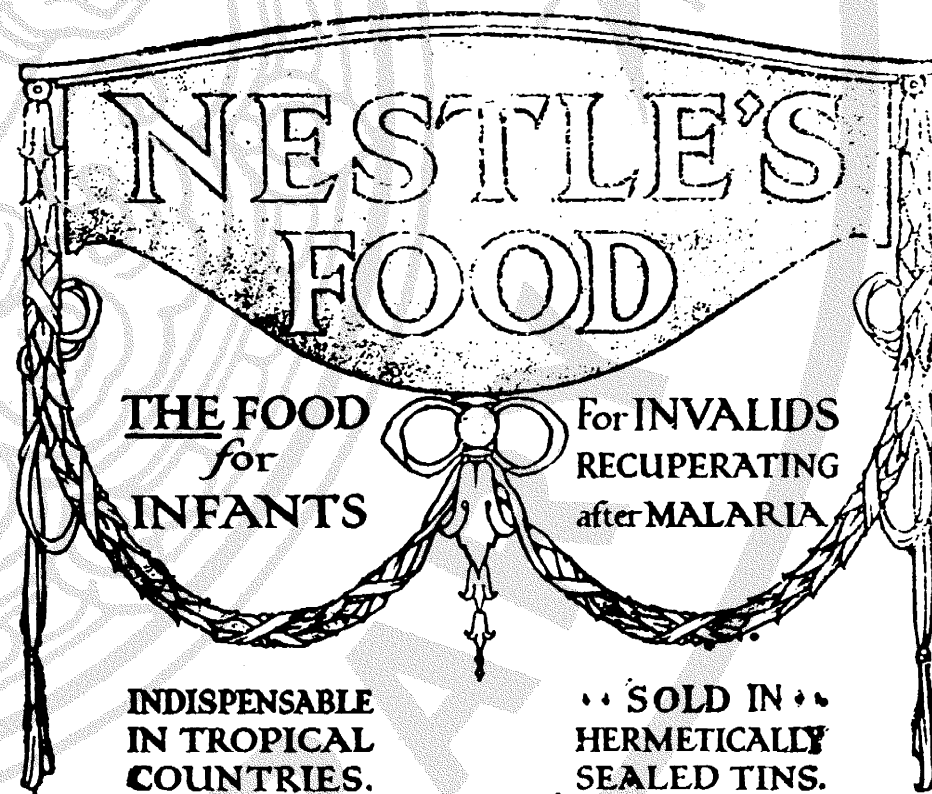
Registered in Bangkok during March, 1917.

SUPPLIED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Atmospheric Temperature	1917		Data for previous 14 years.	
	Fahren-heit	Centi-grade	Fahren-heit	Centi-grade
Mean during month	82.0	27.8	81.9	29.4
Mean of Maxima	89.7	31.9	94.4	34.7
Mean of Minima	75.1	23.9	74.2	23.3
Highest recorded	94.0	34.4	103.0	39.4
Lowest recorded	72.0	22.2	62.0	16.7
Greatest daily range	20.0	11.1	37.0	20.5
Least daily range	2.0	1.1	7.0	3.7
Mean daily range	14.3	7.9	19.8	11.0

Rainfall	Inches		Inches	
	Inches	Milli-metres	Inches	Milli-metres
Total during month	8.46	214.6	1.7	43.2
Total from 1st January to date	8.53	216.3	2.57	65.3
Greatest rainfall in 24 hours	3.11	78.9	5.35	135.9
Total registered at Borneo Co.	6.95	176.5	1.7	43.2

Number of days on which rain fell	12	3.2
Mean relative humidity during month	71.6	65.3%



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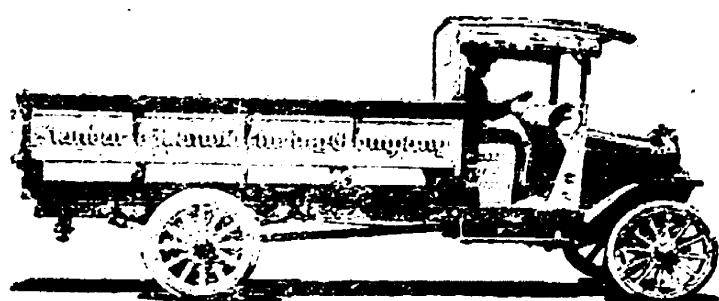
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The Canal Zone.

Our occupation of El Arish and victories at Magdhaba and Rafah make it permissible to write some account of the long and arduous preparations made and the immense natural difficulties overcome before these objects could be achieved with such apparent ease and at so little seeming cost, writes a *Manchester Guardian* correspondent in Egypt.

I arrived in the "Canal Zone" bewildered and ignorant, not knowing why I had been sent, in time to be woken before dawn by the guns that opened the Battle of Romani, in the first week of August. Then I found a "job of work," and for four days and nights my horizon was more strictly limited than ever. Then the fighting was over, and as a matter of fact the Turks were routed, but we were all grumbling. One was led to believe that everyone had a chance except the individual Englishman who was talking, and who had been deprived of any opportunity of useful service by the intolerable stupidity of all the rest of his countrymen. In comparison with this, even the usual swagger of the Australians was at least *chic*, if not comforting. It was best of all to find one young R. F. A. major, nursing a nasty wound in the shoulder, who said simply, "My fellows' work was as near perfect as anything could be. We got the range right away, and they took the word of command and handled the guns just as if the Turks were disappearing targets at practice. I wouldn't have had a thing different." He smiled drowsily as he thought of the havoc his guns had wrought, because, fortunately, his training or his want of imagination prevented his seeing the mangled individuals, and he never once grunted during a somewhat painful dressing. It is necessary that we, too, should feel that "we wouldn't have a thing different" with our soldiers, until the time comes when they will not be needed any more.

After all this there was a week or two occupied in clearing up the mess. And then, without our knowing it, the occupation of El Arish was begun, although we were more than sixty miles away from it, and such miles! Wonderful things were happening. New wharves were being built and improvised along the Canal, and all kinds of strange vessels were unloading. The Egyptian Labour Corps had been established and increased and organised by British officers, and thousands and thousands of natives were "doing their bit" as members of it. Enormous quantities of stores were being accumulated on the Canal bank, which became a big town of canvas and hutments, and meantime at right angles to the

Canal, shooting out due east, went a railway, which since August has actually grown at the rate of a mile a day, and beside the railway, following it as quickly as possible, went a road, a macadamised road capable of resisting the wear of stresses of three-ton lorries, guns, and all other military traffic. Vast numbers of camels had to be found and camel transport of water organised to supply the advanced units with "fantasia"—that is, flat, rectangular metal cases, each containing twelve gallons of water. Twelve gallons of water weigh, roughly, 120 lbs., and two of these fantasies are accordingly the load for a single camel. Even if water could be found locally fit for the horses and camels, the transport for the watering of a single brigade would thus involve a camel train of nearly a mile in length.

Very strange and beautiful was the sight of these immense strings of camels moving slowly over the desert in the lilac glow of early dawn. Then and in the evening the sand loses the yellow glare of day-time. It becomes golden and pink with violet shadows, and the silver grey of the dead scrub turns blue as forget-me-not, and the living scrub takes on a brighter green. Among them move the slow procession, camels of all colours, white camels and brown, most of them greyish or sand-coloured, a few almost black.

When the August fighting was over it was decided to exploit the water resources of the desert itself, because the eventual advance, now accomplished, was already decided on. It was a matter of policy. Among many difficulties the water difficulty was the most acute. This northern part of the Sinai Peninsula is not a waterless desert in the sense that the greater part of the Sahara or the Libyan desert is. On the contrary, the subsoil water is almost everywhere fairly close beneath the surface, varying from two to twenty feet as a rule. Unfortunately, this water is little more than an extension of the sea, or of the "sabbkha," or salt marshes, on the coast. These in the summer-time dry up into sheets of solid salt as white as snow.

In the hollows where the water is nearest to the surface there are "hoda," or groups of date palms. These vary from groups of half a dozen trees to groves that may extend for a mile or more. Their fruit is the principal harvest of the wandering Bedouins, who are the only normal occupants of this desert land, and near them they have their wells of brackish water, cunningly lined with the twisted roots of palm trees. The highlands of this country are sand dunes, rising in places to hills of sand, hills, and ridges rising to 300 feet and over, masses of sand that actually move across the desert in



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course of time, and are sculptured by the wind to curves of exquisite delicacy, from which in the midday breeze a delicate haze of blown sand is ever rising like the smoke of incense.

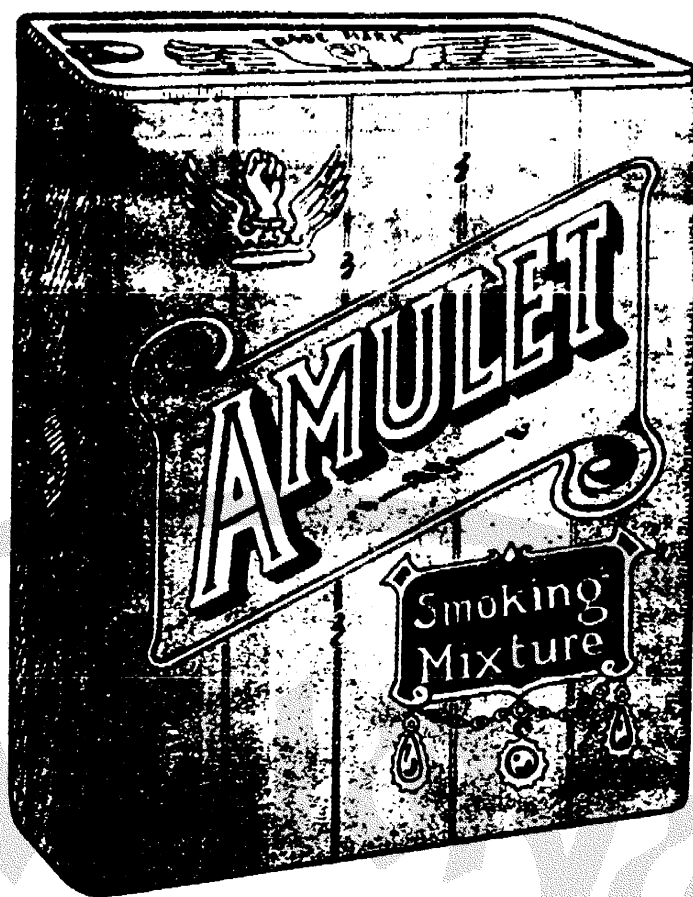
But it was incense burned to some god, and the intrusion of man into these precincts, for all the conditions were cruel to working and fighting man. The soft, ankle-deep sand exhausted both men and horses that had to traverse it, and its particles blew and mingled with every morsel that man ate. Sand permeated everything, and one came to loathe it as we have loathed mud at home and in Flanders. I have known both, and I believe sand comes only second to mud in producing an intolerable weariness in the human spirit. Snow and extreme cold will kill more quickly, but their victims escape the long weariness and the undiminished diseases which are the handmaids of the desert sand. Across this country we used to ride out at dawn prospecting for water, followed by a party of Royal Engineers with their apparatus loaded on camels. Then when a likely place had been selected came the toilsome job of sinking a tube to the water level. If it was a lucky shot water would be found at 12 or 15 feet and the handpump mounted. Samples of water were collected, and as soon as possible a start made to return to our bivouacs, for it was important to get men, horses and camels back to some sort of shape before the sun got too high and the heat dangerous. Then, under the shade of a blanket stretched between stout palm leaves driven into the sand, the portable chemical outfit was produced and the exact percentage of salt was estimated. This was entered on the map on the spot where the boring was situated, and tabulated in the report as fit for camels only, for horses, or for men—very seldom the last, unfortunately. Thus by degrees the water state of the whole area of operations was mapped out, wells sunk, and every possible preparation made for the oncoming army. But even so there remained a final thirty miles to be covered which were absolutely devoid of water, and this was regarded by the Turks as the strongest element in their defence. With our railroad advancing from the 60th to the 90th mile from its base it did not seem possible that those thirty miles of railway could be constructed in thirty days. Yet this was actually done over shifting sands where every ounce of rations, every pint of water, and every ton of material had to be brought up along the single line as it grew.

Water reconnaissance work at the edge of this arid thirty miles was interesting work, and involved a certain amount of roughing. It was November when we were out with patrol of New Zealand cavalry in bivouacs in a valley between two step ridges of scrub covered sand. Tents and furniture were long since left behind and our kit consisted of a water-proof ground sheet and two or three blankets. The water ration was reduced to one water-bottleful per day, so for any washing we were reduced to the salt water of the local wells. There was no transport for officers' stores, so we shared with the men the bully beef and biscuit, varied by fresh bread occasionally and excellent and much-prized potatoes. It was a red letter day when the evening meal consisted of a hot tin of the famous "Maconak's ration" for the desert dew soaked everything and the nights were very cold. At 7.30 all lights had to be out for fear of attack or snipers. Then there was nothing for it but to wrap up and get among one's blankets on the sand, gradually shifting hollow places for hip and shoulder.

To one who has dwelt long in towns and houses it is at first annoying, so to go to bed after wrapping up essential clothing in a ground-sheet. But there are wonderful compensations about sleeping under the stars as the warmth of the blankets gradually asserts itself and one looks straight up into the fearful black chaos in the Milky Way. In a back garden they would be terrifying. Out here there are more immediate alarms, and everything about nature, even the sky at night, seems benignant. It is the moment vividly described by Virgil, when the first quiet begins for tired men, and sleep, the most blessed gift of the gods, creeps quietly upon them. So it is here, as it was on the plains of Troy. We have said good-night and more or less undressed to the tune of the satisfied grunting of horses as the incoming New Zealand patrol brought their food to their animals. And so comes sleep, and, waking later, one's timepiece is Orion in his stately progress across the sky. If he is not much past the meridian one thanks "whatever gods there be" that there are some hours more for sleep. If he is near his setting one is glad, though stiff, for it is time to get up, and the desert bed has become irksome.

One has to be dressed and packed, camel loaded and horse saddled, by 4.30 "stand to," because the hour before dawn is supposed to be the time when our outpost is more likely to be "driven in." Then there

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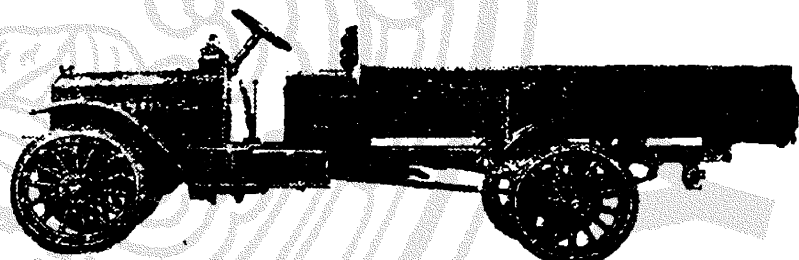
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a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.							a.m.		a.m.			
7.—	8.—	1.20	2.05	Dep. Bangkok Noi ...	Arr.	11.38	12.33	4.53	7.14	6.35	Dep. Chumpon	Arr.	5.30		
8.15	9.48	2.45	4.27	Arr. M. Nakon Patom ...	Dep.	9.26	11.10	3.17	6.01	8.46	" Langsuen	"	3.81		
9.36	11.38	4.20	6.57	Dep. Ratburi ...	Arr.	6.30	9.38	1.30	4.37	12.34	" Surasutra Dhani	"	12.03		
9.46	11.52	4.30		Dep. ...	Arr.	a.m.	9.28	1.02	4.27	4.57	Arr. Tung Song	Dep.	7.10		a.m.
10.57	1.26	6.18		Arr. Petchaburi ...	Dep.	7.20	11.18	3.17							
11.05	2.—			Dep. ...	Arr.	a.m.	10.45	3.09							
12.38	5.—			Dep. Hua Hin ...	Arr.	7.54	1.39								
1.06	5.42			Arr. Wang Phong ...	Dep.	7.—	1.08								
1.14				Dep. ...	Arr.	a.m.	1.—	5.35							
3.01				Dep. Prachuap Kirikan ...	Arr.	11.21	3.10								
7.06				Arr. Chumpon ...	Dep.	7.05	8.35								
						a.m.	a.m.								
Tung Song-Nakon Srithammaraj Daily								Nakon Srithammaraj-Tung Song Daily							
a.m.	p.m.														
7.—	...			Dep. Tung Song	Arr.	...	5.37								
8.09	1.30			Arr. Nakon Junction	Dep.	12.0	4.38								
9.23	2.44			Arr. Nakon Srithammaraj	Dep.	10.46	3.14								
						a.m.	p.m.								
Tung Song-Singora on Tues, Thurs. & Sat.								Singora-Tung Song on Mons, Weds. & Fri.							
a.m.															
11.11				Dep. Tung Song	Arr.		2.24								
12.27				" N. Junction	"		1.23								
2.50				" Patalung	"		10.44								
5.26				" Ootajao	"		8.06								
6.17				Arr. Singora	Dep.		7.—								a.m.

is a damp, cold, dull hour before, as a New Zealand trooper said to me, "the bally sun gets up and burns holes in us." By some strange alchemy my batman produces tea, a whole kettleful, and a tin of somebody's milk, and so I become an honoured host of many guests, taking all the credit, while my batman lurks in the background, watching that no guest annexes an enamelled mug or a spoon. Then the horses are led round, and we go out questing for water as the sky gradually lightens from lilac to pink and pink to orange, and the desert shines responsive beneath, in strange and unexpected colours, until the common light of day is established, which here is bright blue sky and yellow sand.

The upshot of it all is that our report on the water conditions of this particular area is altogether unsatisfactory. The army shrugs its shoulders and arranges accordingly. We return to the base and learn anew of the unutterable stupidity of everyone concerned. And all the time new wharves are being built on the Canal, and the A. S. C. and the Ordnance are forming bigger and bigger dumps, and it becomes necessary to establish a whole system of fire prevention; and that is done, and roads are made, and all the necessities for a new population—necessities which a town population at home assumes as part of normal existence—are created. A properly equipped hospital train emerges, and traffic arrangements are made so that its journeys may be constant without dislocation of the enormous and essential traffic of troops and material upwards from the base. Hospitals, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations are established at all essential points. Two specially equipped boats take sick and wounded from the base on the Canal to Port Said, and special hospital trains run from the same place to Cairo. And we all groan at the mistakes made by inexperienced officers placed in positions for which they have had no training but somehow getting the thing done in the end.

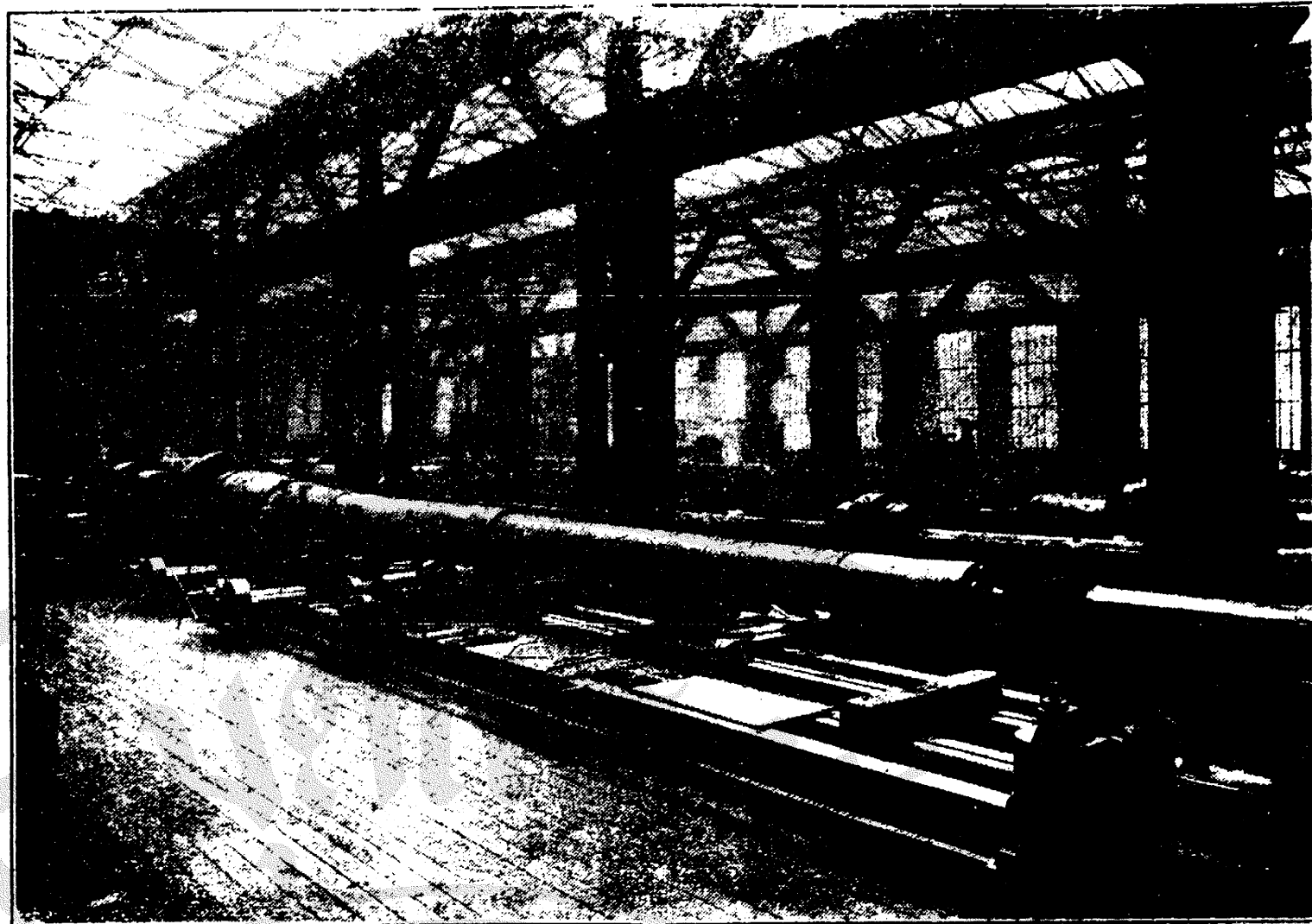
In addition to all this work the whole of the lines of communication have had to be protected by field fortifications of the now familiar type. But all the hundreds of miles of trenches have had to be dug in loose sand and "revetted," or lined with sandbags or other material. Blockhouses, redoubts and barbed-wire defences have been constructed at all the essential points, and all this has been done by troops that had fought through the Peninsula or new drafts from England, under the blistering sun of Sinai, in a climate where every scratch becomes a septic sore, where sand flies and almost insuperable sanitary difficulties and all the pests and parasites

of a sub-tropical climate combine to make men sick and weary.

The final strokes in this campaign were superbly dealt by our mounted troops and artillery. But the shaft of that spear and the deadly driving power behind it was the long, monotonous, unhonoured toil of engineers and infantry, of Army Service Corps and doctors, and of the Arabs and fellahin who compose the Egyptian Labour Corps.

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BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH.
In a munition works in England. A Big Gun.

Enemy Property in China.

The decision of China to sever relations with Germany adds interest to a judgment of Sir Haviland Samnerz, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China. Count C. Praschna had certain shares in the Sungei Duri Co., hypothecated to the Cathay Trust. Interest had been paid on the debt to date, but the Cathay Trust were not satisfied with the position and asked for an order vesting the shares in the Custodian of enemy property. In the course of his judgment the Chief Justice gave this summary of the English Act:

of the law is that the duty of a British subject with respect to enemy property with which he has to do is:—

(1) To pay into "the enemy dividends account" any property which belongs to an enemy and is covered by regulation 8 of the consolidated regulations:

(2) To make a return to the consular officer of the district in which he is resident of all enemy property which he holds or manages for or on behalf of an enemy and which is covered by regulation 7: this return does not include the property covered by regulation 6:

(3) If the person is a China Company, to make a return under regulation 8 of all shares, stock, debentures, of debenture stock and other obligations held by or for the benefit of an

enemy: this return is made to the officer who has been designated by the Secretary of State to perform the duties of Custodian in respect of property vested in him.

The court will in respect of such property make such orders as are made by English courts, and will treat each of the officers interested on behalf of the Government as occupying the office of Custodian of enemy property in respect of the property in which he is interested under the King's Regulations. Further the court will not make a vesting order solely for the benefit of a creditor, where there is a remedy under the local legislation as I have interpreted it.

London, April 1.—Italian Official: We drove back an attack north of the San Caterina and Gorizia area.

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