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FIRST DAILY TO BE PUBLISHED IN SIAM.

VOL 43. NO. 103

BANGKOK FRIDAY MAY 1, 1917.

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Opposite Oriental Avenue on the NEW ROAD.

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

TIDE TABLE.

DEPTH OF WATER ON THE BANGKOK BAR FOR APRIL 1917.

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

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

PHASES OF THE MOON.

April 7th O Full Moon 8 h 31 m p.m.
15th (Last Quarter) 2 h 52 m a.m.
21st O New Moon 8 h 43 m p.m.
29th (First Quarter) 0 h 4 m p.m.

IN THE HOT SEASON

Many people suffer from overheating of the blood, with weariness and a sense of being too tired in the morning, even if there are no pimples or swellings of the skin to show that medicine is needed.

The great mistake that people make at this time of the year is in not taking the right kind of medicine to cure these ailments. The blood does not need thinning out; it needs building up; and this is proved by the way in which Dr. Williams' Pink Pills improve the appetite and clear the complexion.

People often wonder at the many different forms of ill-health and depression which Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure. But the explanation is very simple. They are an experienced family doctor's well-tried prescription for enriching the blood. The doctor knew that if he could get the weak impure blood into good order—making it rich and red and pure—he need not worry over headaches, nervous fits, indigestion, skin eruptions, or backaches. These would disappear as soon as the cause of these troubles was attacked.

The British Dispensary, Bangkok, sole wholesale agents for Siam. Tics. 2.25 per bottle or 6 bottles Tics 12/- Write for the free booklet on the Blood, to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Singapore.

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APOL & STEEL
PILLS
For Ladies
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If you wish to make a good BARGAIN!
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Household furniture to suit all tastes and pockets.
Assorted merchandise always in stock.
Bargain sales every Saturday, commencing 2 p.m.

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Watches, Clocks, Tables, Wardrobe with mirror, E. fans, Dressing table, Dressing room mirror, Bedsteads, Ice chest, Hat stand, Meat safe, writing desk, Book case, Typewriters, Cooking stove, Gramophone, A first hand Organ, also, One Victoria carriage, complete, and One Saigon made Dog-cart, harness, lamps Etc, Ladies shoes, Cigarettes, French butters, Nor. Sardines, A large quantity of "Golf" Whisky Etc., Etc.

For particulars apply to:—
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I, the undersigned beg to notify all customers and clients that my business is now located at the new building at the corner of Klong Poh Yome and Bangkok Ah Seang, Tailor.

Bangkok Mails Close.

MONDOL PATANI.

Saturday 5th 10 a.m. s.s. Asdang

CHANDABURI.

Saturday 5th 10 a.m. s.s. Krat

Exchange Rates.

To-day's Quotations.

LONDON—
Bank Bills, demand 1/6 7 1/6
Bank Bills, 3 months' sight —
PARIS—
Bank Bills, demand 205
GERMANY—
Bank Bills, demand —
NEW YORK—
Bank Bills, demand U. S. A. 36
INDIA—
Bank Bills, demand 113 3/8
SINGAPORE—
Bank Bills, demand \$65 1/2
HONGKONG—
Bank Bills, demand 1
YOKOHAMA & KOBE—
Bank Bills, demand, Y70 3/8
NOTE:—The rate of Interest on Advance Bills has been reduced to 6 1/2 per cent. per annum.
Equivalent of Exchange demand London in Siamese Currency:—
Tos. 13.08.—(Bank Rate)

Black Battalions.

BY SIR HERBERT SLOLEY, K.C.M.G.
(Late Government Secretary, Basutoland).

The intimation that a further consignment of South African natives, some 2,500 Cape "boys," is to be sent to Europe for work behind the lines evidently indicates that Colonel S. M. Pritchard's experiment in France during the winter months had been recognised as successful. Colonel Pritchard is an official of the Native Affairs Department of the Union Government and Director of Native Labour of Johannesburg. When it was decided that native African labour might be usefully employed behind the lines in France, notably in connection with the construction of light railways, and also in other non-combatant spheres of activity, the War Office entrusted Colonel Pritchard with the task of organising a brigade, to be composed of Zulus, Basutos and other natives from the South African Union. The brigade, which reached France in the late autumn, did not include Cape "boys," who are of mixed African and white descent. There were, however, I believe, some Cape "boys" already employed behind the lines before Colonel Pritchard's contingent was organised.

I understand that Colonel Pritchard considers that his natives have performed their duties cheerfully and well. While the men have no doubt suffered from the exceptionally severe winter we have just passed through, I have not heard that any deaths have resulted from exposure.

The Cape "boys" who are now to be sent from South Africa are really good workers and will make excellent transport drivers. Among them drink, unfortunately, has received a certain encouragement, because on the African wine farms, part of their pay takes the form of wine—in two substantial quantities. The peculiar temptations of the wine farm do not apply in France, where no complaints have been made about the "boys" in this respect. The Zulus, Kafirs, and Basutos, who supply all the unskilled labour up-country—in South Africa—for the construction of railway, etc., are good workers, and also make excellent servants. They are the backbone of Colonel Pritchard's present labour contingent in France.

The combatants from South Africa are all of unmixed European descent, the majority of Colonial birth, and from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. of Dutch extraction. They have fought splendidly, with no inducement in the way of high pay when they volunteered. They came, indeed, on the same basis of pay as English troops, and not at the pay rate of the other Colonials, who received from four to six times as much money.

There is a sober and industrious worker in Cape Colony known as the Cape Malay, who originally came to South Africa with the early Dutch settlers, and is, while a Mohammedan, distinct from other coloured labourers. He is chiefly found at Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Coloured men are under no political disabilities in Cape Colony by the way, although certain disabilities still apply to them in the

late Republics. Probably from 5,000 to 10,000 Cape "boys" could be imported for labour service in France without dislocating local labour conditions in South Africa. Conversely, so few would not materially affect the labour shortage in England. The question of transporting large numbers of natives a distance of 6,000 miles is not without importance. Again, to attract great contingents of them would involve the payment of wages on an unsound economic basis. In my opinion, the Union would never pass a compulsory labour law as an alternative, and in any case the powerful opposition would strenuously check any scheme to conscript native labour. One thing which is indicated by the promised presence of General Smuts at the Imperial Conference, seems certain: South Africa will have a voice at the Peace Conference. The operations against the German colonies have been carried through almost entirely by the forces of the Union Government. It is, I believe, felt that German South-West Africa must remain in our hands, as disaffection might otherwise be again spread from that quarter among the people of the Union. It will, after all, be an asset of the Empire, with its diamond mines and its railway system, which is already linked up with the railways in the rest of South Africa. South-West Africa can be developed into a good cattle country. Under German rule, it did not attract the right type of settler, namely the farmer. In time, no doubt, this condition would have been remedied. While the German Government does not understand how to handle the Colonial question—the military and official element is unsatisfactory—the German Colonists themselves—at least, those in our colonies—are industrious, frugal and successful. Our method of colonisation is to allow our colonists to be free and easy, and to govern themselves in a free-and-easy fashion, whereas the German Government imposes a strict military and official régime.—P.M.G.

A New Zealand paper says:—

A remarkable performance with the rifle has been accomplished by Sergeant P.H.N. Freeth, a member of one of the New Zealand reinforcement contingents, who has made the best score of any member of an Empire reinforcement during test shooting conducted in England. His score was 156 out of 170 at the seven ranges. In the first test—10 shots in 30 seconds at 200 yards—he secured a possible. In the five shots deliberate at the same range, he also made the possible; and followed this up with a possible at the snap-shooting, hitting five out of five figures exposed for four seconds at a time. In the highest test, loading and firing 15 shots in lots of five the loading done from the pouch, in one minute he secured 12 bull's-eyes, two inners, and one outer—a total of 41 out of 45 points. This test is known as the "mad minute," and is shot from 300 yards. For this performance Sergeant Freeth received special mention in routine orders. He has also been kept behind to assist in the training at a school of musketry somewhere in England.

Meteorological Data

Registered in Bangkok during April, 1917.

SUPPLIED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Atmospheric Temperature	1917		Data for previous 14 years.	
	Fahrenheit	Centigrade	Fahrenheit	Centigrade
Mean during month	87.4	30.8	87.2	30.7
Mean of Maxima	94.6	34.7	94.4	35.8
Mean of Minima	77.8	25.6	76.9	25.0
Highest recorded	99.0	37.2	106.0	41.1
Lowest recorded	75.0	23.9	68.0	20.0
Greatest daily range	21.0	11.6	32.0	17.7
Least daily range	11.0	6.1	8.0	4.4
Mean daily range	16.7	8.7	19.4	10.8

Rainfall	Inches		Milli-metres	
	Inches	Milli-metres	Inches	Milli-metres
Total during month	0.18	4.5	1.56	39.9
Total from 1st January to date	8.71	223.5	4.14	105.1
Greatest rainfall in 24 hours	0.13	3.2	2.13	54.1
Total registered at Borneo Co.	0.06	1.5	1.87	22.1

Number of days on which rain fell	2	4.7
Mean relative humidity during month	60.7%	61.4

IT STANDS TO REASON

that the best proof of the excellence of any medical preparation is its continued popularity. Beecham's Pills have been before the public for upwards of half a century, and it is acknowledged that they are, now, in greater demand than ever. Their enormous sales are still on the increase. No medicine could achieve such a remarkable success unless it had proved itself to be of very real worth and practical value.

Beecham's Pills

have justified public confidence. In thousands of homes, to-day, experience has proved the beneficial results obtained from the use of these pills in cases of biliousness, sluggish liver, impaired digestion and a disordered condition of the bowels. It is a safe and prudent thing should you feel "out-of-sorts" to rely upon the curative properties of this excellent preparation. You will speedily find that Beecham's Pills

WILL DO YOU GOOD.

Sold every where in boxes, price 9d (36 pills) 1/1d (56 pills) & 2/9 (168 pills).

Northern India and the War.

Peshawar, April 5.—His Excellency the Viceroy, replying to the address of the Peshawar Municipality, acknowledged that the Province, true to its martial traditions, had not been backward in answering to the call to arms; and now that India had been privileged to share in the financial burden of the Empire, the people of Peshawar had shown marked eagerness to help. Alluding to the Mohmand blockade, which would not be raised till Government were satisfied that there would be no recurrence of lawlessness, His Excellency, in the course of his speech, said: "With so many disturbing influences at work, it would not have been surprising if we had been confronted with widespread trouble on the border. As it is, the great mass of the tribesmen have turned a deaf ear to the importunate intrigues of our enemies, and the frontier as a whole has stood solidly loyal. And hereon I would like specially to mention the excellent example set by the Afridis, whose good sense and fidelity to their engagements have proved a valuable asset. Further, I would once more gratefully recognise the debt we owe to the staunch and sagacious statesmanship of our friend and ally, His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan. I would also take this opportunity of recording both my own and your obligations to the skill and devotion of your Chief Commissioner, Sir George Ross-Koppel, and of the whole body of officers serving under him."

In your address you allude to the restrictions designed to prevent hardship to the Indian consumer; but the Government have also had to look to the interests of both the Indian cultivator and the British consumer. Our policy has been to retain in the country sufficient stocks for internal consumption, and to allow the surplus to be exported. Remunerative prices have thus been secured to the producer in India, while welcome supplies have been provided for consumption in the United Kingdom. It has not been easy to reconcile all the conflicting interests, and I am glad to learn from your remarks that the limitation placed on exports have brought substantial relief to the urban population of this district. The recent heavy restrictions on railway traffic, to which you refer, were primarily caused by the shortage of coal, to the short raising in the collieries, and to heavy demands made by the Navy. But the coal output has improved very considerably, and railway stocks are now being replenished.

These heavy restrictions have necessarily resulted in an accumulation of goods traffic which, even in normal times, would involve a temporary dislocation of traffic. The position is, however, improving; and it is hoped that the few restrictions still in force will be withdrawn before very long. There have been, I am aware, foolish rumours on the subject of recent railway restrictions, and these have been ignorantly attributed to such causes as the movement of troops. After what I have said, I need not tell you further how completely without foundation such rumours have been. Gentlemen, in again thanking you for your welcome, I would say that I hope and believe that your loyal prayers for the complete victory of His Majesty's forces will be fulfilled in the not distant future.

A Knife Thrust

would be welcome to many compared with the vicious, shooting, stabbing pains of Sciatica.

Yet these are the men who have not heard about

LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM

and the miraculous relief it brings to the tortured sciatic nerve. Just rub a little in where the pain is and the pain is gone.

Think of it—rest, comfort, and security again, all day long and all night, too.

Sciatica is not and can never be again a menace to the users of Little's Oriental Balm.

Sold at Tcs. 1 per bottle. Of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout Siam.

Agents for Bangkok,
THE BRITISH DISPENSARY
New Road and Seekak.

Notice

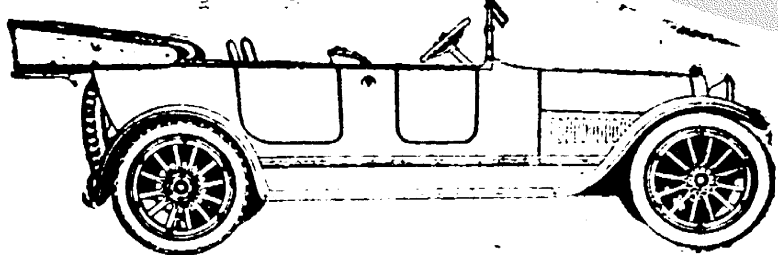
Advertisers are kindly requested to send in changes of advertisements before 11 a.m. of the day they intend the advertisement to appear. Should any advertisement arrive after that hour the same will be held over for the next day.

THE RAINFALL.

Rainfall for the 2nd week in April 2480

Locality.	Rainfall recorded during week of	Rainfall of corresponding week of last year.	Total rainfall for present year to date.	Total rainfall for last year to corresponding date.	Remarks.
Millimetres.	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	Millimetres.	
Ministry of Agriculture	None	24.8	...	24.8	
Dhanyaburi	None	None	...	...
Samudprakar	No report	47.0	...	61.5	
Krang Kao	None	9.0	7.8	14.0	
Anglong	None	6.1	...	6.1	
Lobbur	None	None	...	...
Jainart	None	18.9	...	18.9	
Udaidhani	None	3.2	...	3.2	
Bianuloke	None	27.4	...	62.2	
Khazengsao	None	22.2	...	22.2	
Prachin	33.8	54.0	33.3	54.0	
Nagor Pathom	None	0.5	...	0.5	
Rajburi	None	15.0	...	15.0	
Xlaaraburi	None	None	...	...
Bejngmai	None	10.6	10.0	11.3	
Singora	None	1.0	...	1.0	
Subarn	None	None	
Kanchanaburi	None	14.4	...	14.4	

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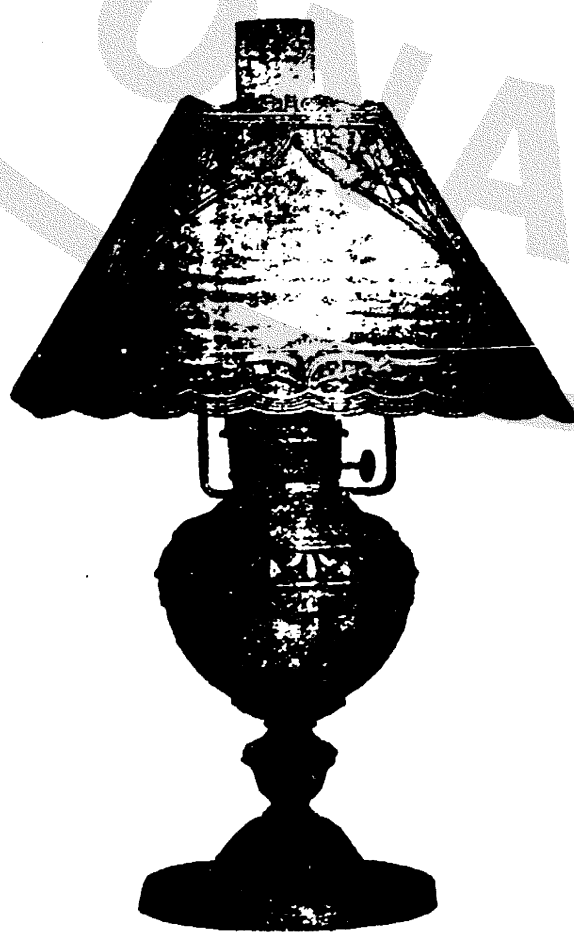
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The Siam Observer

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1917.

NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES.

From his reading of the omens at
the *Raak Na* ceremony, the State
Astrologer pronounced the dictum that
the ensuing year would prove a moder-
ately good one for rice, fruits and
fish. It is not the pronouncement
itself, but the reason for it, on which it
occurs to us to comment. In
the West, generally speaking,
astrology is a discounted science
to-day, but it does not therefore
follow that it is not a science. The
West does not hold the key to all
knowledge, nor is it in any position to
state that such or such a thing is un-
true or impossible. Science, as the
term is commonly understood to-day—
and by this we, of course,
mean empirical science—is in a
position to make certain affirma-
tions as the result of corrobo-
rative research, but it is most certainly
not in a position to take up a dogmatic
attitude in regard to possibilities. The
more we learn but serves to impress
upon us how much more there is to
learn. Human knowledge is but the
plummet-line by which we seek
to sound the measureless depths of our
ignorance. At any time may be made
discoveries which must necessarily
revolutionise many opinions which
now appear to rest upon a thoroughly
solid foundation. We obtain know-
ledge through the medium of our
senses, but these senses are also limita-
tions. Taking as an example the sense
of vision, it is well known that the
human eye is only capable of per-
ceiving the rays of light which go to
make up the visible spectrum, but
cannot apprehend the infra-red or
ultra-violet rays, although these are
known to exist. It is the same with
sound-vibrations. Again, if we could
imagine ourselves gifted with the
faculty of viewing objects on the fourth-
dimensional plane, or with a sight
powerful enough to discern normally
and clearly the molecular construction
of matter, we must realise that
the world we live in would present
itself under an aspect totally different
from it as it now appears, and quite
unrecognisable as being the same.
It is in this sense that philosophers
have spoken of the world as Maya, the
Great Illusion, and they are perfectly
right. The universe and the whole of
life are an illusion, because we can
only know them through media of
perception which are limited and only
temporarily reliable. This being so it
behoves us not to speak oracularly
upon matters beyond our present ken.
No man is able to say with certainty
that there is no truth in astrology, and,
indeed, there are many students and
supporters of it in the West. At any
rate, it is to be respected as the parent
of the modern science of astronomy.
In past times astronomy and astrology
were indissolubly associated with one
another, and the ancients cannot be
regarded as *in toto* a pack of fools.
Not so many years ago the idea of
wireless telegraphy, the Roentgen rays,
telepathic communications and so forth
would have been scoffed at by most
Western savants, but nowadays they
exist as proven and indubitable facts.
Nothing is more sure than that, as
time rolls on, many more notions now
looked upon as fanciful and extra-
vagant will become crystallised and
take concrete shape within the sphere
of common experience.

THE Great War.

French Communique.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, May 2.

There was violent artillery fighting
between St. Quentin, the Oise and
Chemin des Dames. After very great
artillery preparations in Champagne
French infantry in the afternoon
attacked the enemy's lines on both
sides of Mont Cornillet, and we carried
several lines of fortified trenches be-
tween Mont Cornillet and the mouth of
Beine to a depth ranging from five
hundred to a thousand metres. We
also pushed forward our own lines on
the north and north-eastern slopes of
the high mount as far as Mawroy on
the Moronvilliers road. The violent
artillery fighting continues.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, May 2.

We have made an appreciable ad-
vance to the east of Reims.

Firm Attitude of Argentina.

(Havas Telegram.)

Paris, May 2.

In addition to the apology and the
indemnity to be proffered by Germany
for the torpedoing of the *Monte Pro-
tedo*, the Argentine Government insists
upon a ceremonial act of reparation
being performed by Germany at
Buenos Aires as a tribute to the me-
mory of those who met with death in
honour of the Republic of Argentina.

Coming Italian Offensive

(“S.O.” SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, May 2.

An authoritative Italian source has
informed Reuter's Agency that the
combined British and French offensive
has destroyed the Austro-German
hopes of invading Italy. The enemy
is now anxiously awaiting the great
Italian offensive, for which elaborate
preparations are being made. General
Cadorna will choose the most favour-
able opportunity for dealing a smash-
ing blow, which may decide the issues
of the War in the near East.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

ON account of the Wisaka Bucha
festival now being celebrated, we shall
not go to press to-morrow (Saturday.)

THE Post and Telegraph Department
reports that Nongkai line is still im-
perfectly working between Korat and
Konkaen. Other lines are all right.

THE following is the list of the pas-
sengers per s.s. *Kuala*, which left Bang-
kok for Singapore to-day:—Mr. Mrs.
and Miss Scott, Mr. H. Emerson
and Mr. Crooks.

THE Medical Officer of Health for
Bangkok reports that four cases of
bubonic plague were notified during
the week ending April 28th, and four
deaths resulted. There were no other
cases of communicable diseases noti-
fied.

NEW Ads.—The Siam Auctioneering
Co. will hold an Auction of Postage
Stamps at their rooms to-morrow
(Saturday) at 2.30 p.m. An Auction
Sale of Teak Wood Furniture, etc.,
will be held by Mr. B. A. Pereira at 2
p.m. to-morrow (Saturday.)

THERE will be a new programme to-
morrow at the Phathanakorn Theatre,
including an adaptation in five acts of
Harold McGrath's well-known novel
“Half a Rogue,” also “The Hundred
Days” a film of three reels dealing
with the return of Napoleon from
Elba.

PADDY REPORT FOR MAY 3.

Nasran 2020 coyans at Tcs.	68.93	each
Samuang 870	58.66	
Namuang 250	57.59	
Total	3140	Coyans

FOR A LAMP BACK

When you have pruned your fingers
in the back bath the parts of the
berlain's Pain Balm twice a day,
massaging with the palm of the hand
for five minutes at each application.
Then dampen a piece of flannel slight-
ly with this liniment and bind it on
over the seat of pain. For sale by the
British Dispensary.

The King's Tour.

Journal of His Majesty the King's
Official Tour to the Southern
Provinces.

On Tuesday, April 10, at 10 a.m. His Majesty the King, with members of his suite, proceeded to the Royal Landing where he embarked in a motor-launch and proceeded to Bangkok Noi Terminus. Here many members of the Royal Family and officials came to see His Majesty off.

The Royal Train left Bangkok Noi Terminus at 10.30 for Bejraburi. His Majesty was accompanied by their Excellencies Chao Phya Yommaraj, Minister of Local Government; Chao Phya Vongse, Minister of Communications; Chao Phya Abhai Raja, Minister of Justice; Chao Phya Dharmadikarana, Minister of the Royal Household; Phya Burus Ratna, Mayor of the Palace; Deputy-General Phya Rajavallabha, Captain-General of His Majesty's Royal Bodyguard of Gentlemen-at-Arms; Lieutenant-General Phya Deb Arjun, Chief Aide-de-Camp-General; First Grand Chamberlain and Major-General Phya Prasiddhi Subhakara, His Majesty's Lord Chamberlain and Assistant Aide-de-Camp-General; Lieutenant-General His Serene Highness Prince Ganrob, A. D. C., Director-General of the Gendarmerie; Second Grand Chamberlain His Serene Highness Prince Phiyabutra, Deputy Lord Chamberlain; Second Grand Court Officer Phya Sri Bhuripriya and Second Grand Chamberlain Phya Buri Naraseth, His Majesty's Private Secretaries; Second Grand Court Officer Phya Sri Varavonga, Chief Secretary of the Privy Seal and Assistant Private Secretary to His Majesty; Second Grand Court Officer Phya Baurong Bhakdi, Marshal of the Court; Second Grand Chamberlain Phya Sucharit Dharmong, Deputy Mayor of the Palace; Second Grand Councillor Phya Rajanukul, Under Secretary of State for the Interior; Third Grand Chamberlain Phya Anirudha Deva, Principal Gentleman of the Bed Chamber; and Major-General Phya Bijaya Jaridhhi, A. D. C., (General Officer Commanding the 4th Division of the Royal Army temporarily attached to His Majesty's Military-Household.)

At 11.40 the Royal Train reached Nagor Pathom and stopped there a few minutes for the King to send the customary offerings of candles and flowers up to the Great Shrine. His Majesty was received at the Station by Second Grand Court Officer His Excellency Phya Maha Amatya, Viceroy of the Western Provinces and Lord Lieutenant of Nagor Jaieri Circle, and other officials of the Province. A Guard of Honour was provided by a company of the King's Own Wild Tiger Scouts Territorial Regiment of Nagor Jaieri, and a troop of Boy Scouts of the same city was drawn up on the platform. Here also His Excellency the Minister of Local Government took leave of His Majesty to return to the Capital and Phya Maha Amatya boarded the Royal train which left Nagor Pathom at 11.45 and arrived at Bejraburi at 2.20 p.m.

At the station His Majesty was received by Third Grand Chamberlain His Serene Highness Prince Pradibaddha, Rajabadi Kahemari, Lord Lieutenant of Rajaburi Circle and First Councillor Phya Bejra Bisaya, Governor of Bejraburi. A Guard of Honour was provided by the 14th Infantry Regiment and a company of Wild Tiger Scouts of Bejraburi. The King proceeded by motor-car to Sarabjra Prasad Palace where he stayed the night.

On the next day, Wednesday 11, at 1.18 p.m. the King continued his journey from Bejraburi by Special train for Jumbor. His Serene Highness Prince Pradibaddha also accompanied His Majesty. The Royal train reached Prachub Grikhandh at 5.25 o'clock where His Majesty broke off his journey and remained here one night. At the station the King was received by First Councillor Phya Svasti Giri, Governor of Prachub Grikhandh. Lieutenant-General His Royal Highness the Prince of Lobbur, Viceroy of the Southern Provinces and Lord-Lieutenant of Nagor Sridhamaraj Circle, and Third Grand Court Officer, His Excellency Phya Ganga Dharadhi-badi, Lord-Lieutenant of Surasathra Circle also came to welcome His Majesty.

On Thursday, April 12, at 10.20 a.m. the Royal Party again left Prachub Grikhandh for Jumbor which was reached at 2.50 p.m. At the station His Majesty was received by Third Councillor Phya Jumbor Buri, Governor of Jumbor. A Guard of Honour was provided by the Wild Tiger Scouts of Jumbor and a company of Gendarmerie. His Majesty proceeded by motor-car to the Royal Villa which was arranged for the King's reception. His Excellency Phya Maha Amatya, His Serene Highness Prince Pradibaddha and Phya Svasti Giri, who had accompanied His Majesty here, took leave of the King to return to their respective provinces.

Saturday April 14, was fixed for His Majesty's departure from Jumbor for Ranong in the Circle of Bhuket. At 10 a.m. the King left the Royal Villa in a motor-launch, crossing the Jumbor River, and then mounted an elephant, while officials in the King's suite also followed His Majesty on elephants. Arriving at Slob Yuan at 1 p.m. the

Royal Party made a halt for luncheon. His Serene Highness Prince Prasob Prasong, Governor of Lang Suan, came to welcome His Majesty. At 3 p.m. the journey was again continued till 7 p.m. when Tha-Mai-Lai was reached, where a night was spent. The King was received by First Councillor Phya Vijiit Bhakdi, Governor of Surasathra. On the next day at 9.15 a.m. the King left Tha-Mai-Lai by elephant. Two hours later the boundary between Jumbor and Ranong was reached. Here Lieutenant-General His Excellency Phya Suriindra Raja, A.D.C., Lord Lieutenant of Bhuket Circle, came to receive His Majesty and presented Third Councillor Phya Ranong Buri, Governor of Ranong, to His Majesty. The Governor presented to the King the highest form of offering, consisting of candles and incense, fresh flowers and roasted corn according to ancient custom, welcoming His Majesty in the name of the people of the Province of Ranong. The distance from Jumbor to the boundary was about 801 senn or 20 miles.

At 12.30 p.m. Inthanin plateau was reached where the Royal Party halted and luncheon was served. After luncheon the Royal Party again continued the journey and reached Manu at 6 p.m. The boys of a local school of Kraburi district were lined up, and a large number of inhabitants awaited to greet the King near the Royal Pavilion, where His Majesty spent a night.

Monday, April 16, was fixed for the continuance of His Majesty's journey by boat. Before embarking in the Royal launch His Royal Highness the Prince of Lobbur and His Excellency Phya Ganga took leave of the King to return to Nagor Sri Dharmaraj and Surasathra Circles respectively. At 4 p.m. His Majesty the King embarked in the Government launch "Sri Sundara" which immediately steamed down the Kraburi River until 7.45 p.m. when she came along side the Government yacht "Thalang" (Senior Lieutenant Luang Niyom Yuddhanavi, R.N.) which was anchored further down the river. The King spent the night on board the yacht.

On Tuesday, the 17th at 1 p.m. the "Thalang" weighed anchor and steamed south, preceded by H.M.S. Sugrib, (Senior Lieutenant Luang Jalan Bisaya Seni, A.D.C., R.N.) and followed by three other steamships, namely:—Sri Dharmaraj, Deb Kshatri and Vides Kichkara, the whole flotilla being under the command of Senior Lieutenant Luang Niyom Yuddhanavi, R.N. At 3.15 the "Thalang" reached the mouth of the Ranong River and dropped anchor about half a mile from the shore. Phya Ranong Buri, Governor of Ranong, came in the steam launch "Sri Sundara" to welcome His Majesty. The King left the Royal Yacht in the "Sri Sundara" while H.M.S. "Sugrib" fired a Royal Salute. The launch entered the Ranong River and after half an hour's journey the Royal Party arrived at the landing, where His Majesty was received by Third Grand Councillor Phya Damrong Sucharit, former Governor of Ranong, together with other town officials and the European and Chinese communities. A Guard of Honour was provided by a Company of the King's Own Scout Rifles, a Company of Wild Tiger Scouts of Ranong and the Gendarmerie. His Majesty proceeded in a victoria-and-pair to Ratna Rang-Sarga House, passing through many decorated arches erected along the road by European and droving companies of the town and by the Siamese, Chinese, Indian and Burmese merchants.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 3.30 p.m. His Majesty drove in a victoria-and-pair to the Royal Pavilion which was specially erected for the occasion of His Majesty's presenting the City Sword to the town of Ranong. On His Majesty's arrival His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant read a loyal address of welcome in the name of the officials and inhabitants of Ranong, enumerating the chief benefits which His Majesty had conferred upon the Country as a whole, and also on Ranong in particular, in having commanded the construction of a road between Ranong and Jumbor, which is now in progress and nearing completion. Communication thus provided greatly adds to the convenience of trade and the prosperity of the country. His Majesty was pleased to reply thanking the Lord Lieutenant, the officials and inhabitants of the town for their expression of loyalty and welcome. The greatest happiness that he finds, said His Majesty, is in the consciousness of having done his duties to the best of his ability, and he hopes that his officials and people of Ranong will perform their duties, upon which His Majesty then succinctly dwelt. The King then handed to Phya Ranong Buri, Governor of the town, the City Sword which, he said, was an emblem of the Royal authority, and that it was the duty of every official and good citizen to guard and respect it.

The Governor then made due acknowledgement and the Lord Lieutenant prayed His Majesty to accept a replica of "Sindhuvayana" (Vishnu reclining in the ocean) made in silver and a guide book of Bhuket Circle as souvenirs of his visit. The guide books were also distributed to the officials in the Royal Suite.

After the ceremony the King retraced to Ratna-Rang-Sarga House.

On Thursday, April 19, at 5 p.m. His Majesty the King drove in a victoria-and-pair to pay a visit to the family

cemetery of the Na Ranong Family, where His Majesty was received by His Excellency Phya Damrong Sucharit, Phya Pradibaddha Bhudala and Luang Banraksha Lohavisan, who paid due homage to the King. His Majesty laid a wreath at the tomb of His late Excellency Phya Rasda Nupradith, former Lord Lieutenant of this Circle and His Majesty's great personal friend. Here His Majesty was pleased to address Luang Borin K-sha, the son and heir of Phya Rasda, in terms of regret recalling his past friendship with his father, and concluded by wishing every prosperity to the Family. His Majesty also laid a wreath to Phya Damrong Sucharit to be laid at the tomb of his father, after which His Majesty took his departure.

In the evening His Majesty witnessed a private theatrical performance by officials of Ranong.

On Friday the 20th the King, with members of his suite, left Ranong on board the yacht "Thalang" for Bhuket.

Items of Interest.

According to a German legal paper, the Germans have since the beginning of the war sentenced to various penalties no fewer than 103,092 Belgian subjects. Of this number 100 have been condemned to death, 91 to various terms of hard labour, 11,000 to terms of imprisonment, 591 to deportation, and the remainder to fines.

Commenting sorrowfully upon the breach between China and Germany, the Frankfurter Zeitung remarks that it is evident that Germany had no friends in China. She pursued a wrong policy, and now China completes the ring of Germany's foes around the whole earth, and Germany, her friends, and neutrals appear only like islands in a vast ocean of enemies.

The Japanese army has announced the invention of a new infantry rifle by Colonel Kijiro Nambu, an authority on ordnance, who has in the past invented several useful fire-arms accessories. The new rifle is said to be an improvement on the weapon now used by the Japanese army. Its special features include a broader muzzle, a longer range, and improvements in the internal mechanism. It is said to be more powerful in its firing capacity and more convenient to handle.

High prices in India, says the World, produce quaint results. A chakra approached his master at the beginning of the year for a rise in pay, owing to the present hard times, and his increasing size and appetite. The request was granted, and he was given an extra Rs. 2 a month. A little later another petition was presented, asking that he might be allowed to employ a cooly, "at master's expense," when carrying the latter's bag to the club or elsewhere. He was getting "too much pay now" to be expected to do this!

The admission by a speaker in the Reichstag that "Antwerp is indispensable for Germany, and the Flemish coast generally is of the greatest importance for both offensive and defensive positions against England," is a clear indication of German designs against this country after the war. It presupposes, of course, a German peace against which we have strictly to guard ourselves and our Allies. England, in the view of the German parliamentarian, is still and will continue to be the enemy. We are not especially illuminated by this reiteration of German policy, but we take the liberty of commending it to our pacifists, within and without the House of Commons.—(Ex.)

India's Loyalty.

Simla, April 19th.—The remarkable flow of gifts and assistance by Indian Chiefs and Noblemen towards the War continues without ceasing; and the Viceroy almost daily receives a valuable offer of some sort or other from some part of India. Among recent notable gifts are those of the Maharaja of Patiala, who has raised two corps of mule drivers and a complete camel-corps, and will defray their entire expenses during the continuance of the war, and the Khan of Kalat in Baluchistan, who has given 100 camels. The Raja of Manipur has raised a double company of infantry, costing Rs. 10,000, and will also partly defray their cost in the field and will train a reserve of 100 men at a cost of Rs. 22,000 annually. The Chiefs of Jind, Malerkotla and Faridkot have presented a number of mules; the Federated States of Behar and Orissa have given Rs. 54,000 for two aeroplanes, and the Bharatpur State Rs. 50,000 and Panna State Rs. 10,000 for war purposes. The Palitana State has made a donation of one mile of railway and 30 waggons for Mesopotamia, and the Ratan State will maintain a hospital for British troops at Indore. The Maharaja of Sirohi, again, maintains a convalescent home for British Officers from Mesopotamia at Mount Abu, and the Maharaja of Dholpur has given a motor car for the use of the Nursing Sisters at Baara. The Maharajas of Sirmur and Faridkot have lent much-needed houses in Simla for officers, and the Talia Durrar has defrayed the cost of a Sikh temple in Baara.

The Star-Spangled Banner.

The "Star-Spangled Banner," which Sir Henry Wood specially orchestrated for a recent concert at Queen's Hall, is now recognised by the naval and military authorities of the United States as the official anthem, members of both services being ordered to stand at attention while it is played. Prior to 1850 it was not customary for American civilians to rise in honour of "The Star-Spangled Banner." That year Jenny Lind made her debut in America, and Daniel Webster, the Secretary of State in President Fillmore's Cabinet, attended her first concert. When she sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," Webster, to the distress of his wife and the delight of the audience—set the example of rising, which has since become common, and joined in the chorus with a mighty voice.

There are few songs with a more romantic "life story" than the "Star-Spangled Banner." It came into existence during the English and American

War of 1811. Francis Scott Key, a young American lawyer, wishing to obtain the release of a friend who was a prisoner on board an English vessel, rowed out to the ship, and received the necessary assurance that freedom would be restored to him. But Key and his friend were not allowed to go ashore immediately, as the English were about to attack Fort Mifflin. During the bombardment Key fixed his eyes on the beleaguered and bestrapped flag which floated over the fort, and it was still flying at nightfall.

When dawn came and Key saw the old flag still flying, his joy gave rise to the sentiments expressed in the first verse of the song, and on reaching shore, with his friend he finished the poem. The time to which it is sung, however, is not American, but that of an old English song composed by John Stafford Smith for the Ancient and Antient Society. It was sung at the meetings of this old English club, which usually held its revelries at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand. That would be about 1780.

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The Balkan Problem.

Mr. Bernard Pares writes from Jassy:

There is reason now to be specially interested in the internal politics of Rumania. It is precisely our military failure on this side that has raised in an acute form the question of the relations between front and rear among the Allies in general. It is because front absolutely depends on rear for supplies, and the Rumanian rear is the farthest from our centres of equipment, that we have failed here: it is also because Rumania, being our last new Ally, had least developed the principle of co-ordination among the members of the Alliance.

"Party" is said by one of those who know best to be stronger here than anywhere in Europe. Up to eight years ago there were two parties: the Conservatives, resting on the few aristocratic families of Bucharest or Phanara; and the Liberals, the bourgeois party, no less anxious to secure all material power in their hands. There was then founded a third party, the Conservative Democrats, and in the course of the war the Conservatives have further split into two groups, the adherents respectively of the Allies and of the Central Powers. These last do not, of course, come into the reckoning in that part of Rumania which is still uninvaded: they are now with the Germans, though the estate of one of their leaders was fired by the enemy's troops. The other section of the Conservatives has fused with the Conservative Democrats under M. Take Jonescu; and the Liberals, with M. Bratiano at their head. These are the only two strong men left in independent Rumania.

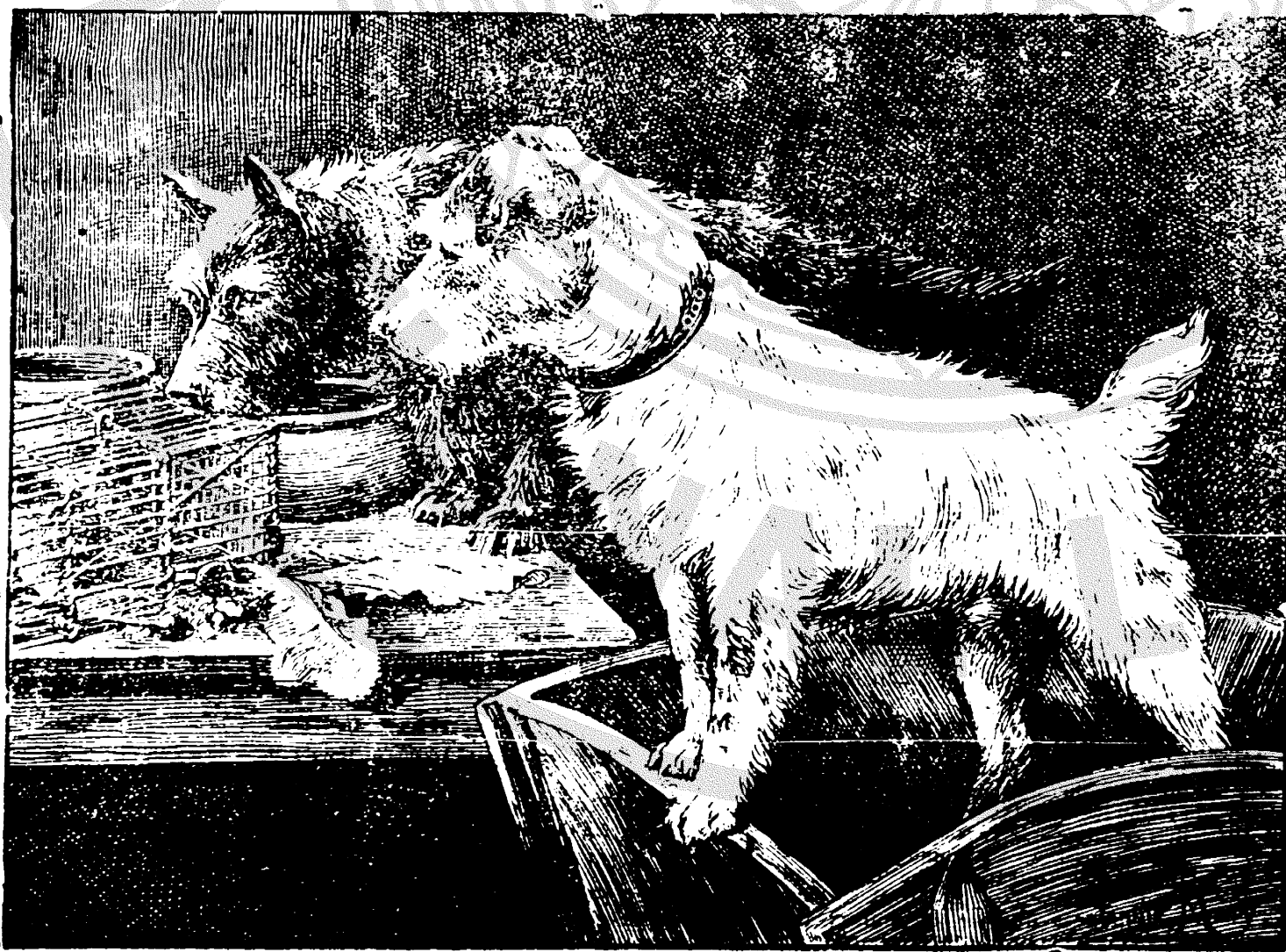
The formation of a National Ministry meant, practically, co-operation between these two men. There were obstacles in the way. M. Bratiano is a strong man; he brought the country on the side of the Allies, and it is almost certain that no one else could have done so: he is also more necessary than anyone else for carrying it through the present stress. It was not likely that he would be ready to divide his responsibility just after the catastrophe, taking all the criticism for himself, and leaving the credit of any reparation of the position inevitably in the main to those political opponents who had joined him later. However, these difficulties have all been overcome by M. Take Jonescu. He has kindly explained his views fully to me during the crisis. It is evident that he is a man of rare breadth of view and self-restraint. It is due to him that all idea of getting rid of M. Bratiano was dismissed, and that the Opposition of

Conservatives and Conservative Democrats, with so obvious a chance of discrediting its opponents, was content to accept three places out of nine in the Cabinet. M. Take Jonescu himself keeping comparative freedom of criticism as a Minister without portfolio. This line, as he said to me, was dictated by the actual conditions. There could be no elections in a country which is two-thirds occupied, and if Rumania should by any sad chance suffer in full the fate of Belgium, a Parliamentary or even a Ministerial crisis somewhere beyond the frontier is, or ought to be, unthinkable.

M. Bratiano is now the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as Prime Minister. I found him in his temporary lodging, working in a little room with doors open, with no more privacy than his secretaries. Ease and simplicity were the characteristics which one noticed first. When I referred to the sentence in the King's Speech on Austria, M. Bratiano put the matter in the clearest words. "There has been and there can be room for an Austria, but not for an Austria which has become merely a fiction of an independent State, and is only an instrument in the hands of Germany." I asked him what had defined Rumania's attitude in the war. He answered: "It was the fact that all her enemies were on the other side—Germany, Bulgaria, and particularly Hungary. Hungary ought to be Hungary and no more; it is a small nation, one of nine millions, and we are eleven millions." He claimed as Rumanian not only Transylvania but the greater part of the Banat.

Next came the turn of the Bulgarians. M. Bratiano illustrated the population of the Dobrudja in the same way. In the part recently annexed he claimed less than a third for the Rumanians, and allowed the Bulgarians to be the most numerous factor. Here Rumania in no doubt fighting to keep what she would not naturally have.

With M. Take Jonescu the conversation dealt rather with the organisation of the war from the rear. The question to be faced is the reason or reasons for the Rumanian reverses. They raise, first, the question of munitions, and secondly the whole question of the efficiency, the clearness, and the co-ordination of the war of the Allies. It is not for nothing that the Ministerial crisis in England has been simultaneous with one in Russia and one in Rumania. How far the need of such reorganisation is recognised in Rumania may be gathered from an inscription, dated December 16 and written in English by the Queen on a portrait of herself, which she gave to the distinguished Rumanian historian M. Jorgo: "For M. Jorgo, with the hope that our



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neighbour into a hereditary foe. In ten years' time nothing will be left of the Entente. The combination is too unnatural to be lasting. Then, however, Britain, 'the protector of small nations', would no longer be available to protect us. When, then, the worst result of this war had passed off for all that present belligerence, our miseries would begin again, for then Germany would revenge herself on us. What, then, could be gained by intervening in the war against Germany? One cannot but ask. *Cui bono?* And we, we cautious Dutchmen, consider this question most seriously. We have a great past, we have our Colonies, we are respected all over the world. Must we be the first to be humiliated? We are the only land of peace: we are at The Hague, keeping watch over the fire on the altar of peace; we are the refuge for the persecuted. This we want to remain."

Tues. Thurs	daily	daily	daily	daily		daily	daily	daily	Weis. Fris.	daily	Chumpon-Tung Song on Mondays, Weds. & Fri.	Tung Song-Chumpon on Tues, Thurs. and Sat.	
a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.								a.m.		
7.—	8.—	1.20	2.05	Dep. Bangkok Noi ...	Arr.	11.38	12.33	4.58	7.14		6.35	Dep. Chumpon Arr.	5.30
8.15	9.48	2.45	4.27	" M. Nakhon Patom ..	"	9.28	11.10	3.17	6.01		8.46	" Langsuen ..	3.31
9.36	11.38	4.20	6.57	Arr. Banturi ...	Dep.	6.80	9.88	1.30	4.87		12.84	" Surasashtra Dhani ..	12.03
9.46	11.52	4.30		Dep. " ...	Arr.	a.m.	9.28	1.02	4.27		4.57	Arr. Tung Song Dep.	7.10
10.87	1.26	6.18		Arr. Petachaburi ...	Dep.		7.20	11.18	3.17				a.m.
11.08	2.—			Dep. " ...	Arr.		a.m.	10.45	3.09				
12.38	5.—			Has Hin ...	Dep.			7.54	1.59				
1.08	5.48			Arr. Wang Phong ...	Dep.			7.—	1.08				
1.14				Dep. " ...	Arr.			a.m.	1.—	5.35	M. Junction-Trang Daily	Trang-N. Junction Daily	
											p.m.		
3.01				9.45 .. Prachuap Kirikan ...	Dep.			11.21	3.10		1.23	Dep. N. Junction Arr.	12.12
7.06				4.14 Arr. Chumpon ...	Dep.			7.05	8.35		2.50	" Tung Song ..	11.11
								a.m.	a.m.		6.04	Dep. Trang Dep.	7.30
													a.m.
				Tung Song-Nakhon Srithamaraj Daily		Nakhon Srithamaraj-Tung Song Daily				Tung Song-Singora on Tues, Thurs. & Satur.		Singora-Tung Song on Mons. Weds. & Fri.	
	a.m.	p.m.								a.m.			
7.—	...	...		Dep. Tung Song Arr.	...	5.87				11.11	Dep. Tung Song	Arr.	2.24
8.09	1.80			" Nakhon Junction "	12.0	4.38				12.27	" N. Junction "		1.23
9.23	2.44			Arr. Nakhon Srithamaraj Dep.	10.46	8.14				2.50	" Patalung "		10.44
					a.m.	p.m.				5.26	Ootapao		8.06
										6.17	Arr. Singora	Dep.	7.—

This disease is so dangerous and so rapid in its development that every mother of young children should be prepared for it. It is very risky to wait until the attack of croup appears and then send for medicine and let the child suffer until it can be obtained. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been known to fail in any case. Always have a bottle in the home. For sale by the British Dispensary.

The Pretence of Stale-Mate.

Of Germany's efforts to influence to her own advantage the beliefs of neutrals, and even of her enemies if possible, a notable instance has recently been before us. She has tried to persuade all the world that the war must inevitably end in a "stale-mate." It is a clever move, the more so because the proposition at first sight seems plausible. Yet it is not too much to say that what she declares to be inevitable is the most unlikely event that could happen.

Germany at the present time is in a situation to which that of the Southern States at a comparatively late period of the American Civil War affords a curious parallel. Sea power, as represented by the British blockade, man power, and material resources of all kinds are beginning to weigh heavily in the balance against her, just as they told increasingly against the Southern States. In their case, too, at a very similar psychological moment, the world in general was disposed to regard a definite decision as highly improbable. Yet the North in the last year of a four years' war achieved the most complete decision in military history.

Why then, it may be asked, should this theory, however skillfully promulgated by Germany, appear so plausible? The answer is simple. Human nature is on the average curiously conservative by instinct. It does not readily believe in the prospect of revolutionary change in a condition of things in which no appreciable change has occurred for a considerable period. It is easily persuaded of equilibrium, and with corresponding difficulty of movement, starting to present experience, that would break that equilibrium. "If it was going to happen it would have happened" is an argument which has undoubted weight with all of us.

When, therefore, Germany cried to the world with a show of magnanimity, "It is true that we cannot win the war, but neither can our enemies, so clearly it ought to be stopped," she said something which already half the world was both anxious and inclined to believe. With regard to the initial confession, the average neutral, at any rate, was favourably impressed by its honesty; with regard to the statement that follows he took the line of least resistance in arguing to himself that the war would have been won by now if it was ever going to be won; and his criticism of the desired conclusion was prejudiced by his weariness of the war. It is obvious, then, that as a move in the political game this declaration by Germany was clever and up to a point

assured of its effect. Yet if we look at it from another standpoint we are led to a conclusion at once very different and much more convincing.

The Central Powers, far superior to their enemies at the start in preparedness and equipment, moved towards victory with decreasing momentum. The gathering strength of the Entente which was the force that diminished this momentum, has already stopped the movement towards victory and turned it definitely, though the pace may be slow as yet, in the reverse direction. Germany—and no other member of the Central Alliance seriously counts—is faced by the fact that in the West, where she holds the line with more than half of all her own available troops, she is for the first time in a position of very serious and increasing inferiority both in men and guns. In the East she and her Allies have at least a superiority of numbers against them, and numbers that must grow overwhelming. The truth of both these statements is self-evident. Incidentally she is engaged with a food problem and a financial problem of extreme gravity. In these circumstances there is only one course of action which we should expect her to adopt, and this is the exact course which she has adopted.

The case is so clear that it hardly admits of doubt. The rulers of Germany realize not only that at best it is "stale-mate" for them but that never before was their prospect of defeat so alarming. What could be more natural, if not indeed inevitable, than that they should claim as much credit as possible for such indeterminate successes as they have hitherto achieved, and try deliberately to save themselves by bluff? Their desperate conduct in outraging America and the whole neutral world by proclaiming submarine ruthlessness makes the hypothesis even more certain. That this barbarity will do more in a military sense than inconvenience the growing hosts of Germany's enemies is as unlikely as that it will horrify them into peace.

There was a moment when fears were entertained that this last skillful deception might bring Germany some measure of reward. That moment has passed: there will be no inconclusive peace. Henceforward the future may be faced with quiet confidence. What is best for humanity will assuredly happen, and what that best will be is scarcely doubtful; the logic of facts points to it very clearly. This curious Germanic microbe, which breeds the ambition of national expansion at the expense of all other nations, will vanish into non-existence as surely as a stone sinks into the sea. The laws of Sense are as certain as the laws of Gravity, and the proof of their action will be the history of the present war seen in its true perspective.

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MICHELIN also proposed the establishment of the "FLYING SERVICE FUND" for the benefit of British Aviators and their dependents, giving £1,000 to start the fund—also gave £800 to the Prince of Wales' Fund—and has given to date £120,000 to the dependents of his employees who are fighting for the Allies.

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