EGYPT

HIS MAJESTY FOUAD I, KING OF EGYPT

H.R.H. PRINCE FAROUK CROWN PRINCE OF EGYPT.

EGYPT

The Pyramids of Giza.

DAWN.—THE CITADEL.

Pompey's Pillar at Alexandria.

The Sphinx & Pyramids.

Temple of Isis.

FROM THE EAST TO EGYPT. (In the Desert).

THE DESERT CARAVAN.

SUNSET ON THE NILE.

EGYPT

From time immemorial Egypt has occupied a unique position in the world. It was the cradle of one of the earliest civilisations known to us, a complex and brilliant civilisation, the remains of which are of almost overwhelming magnificence and beauty. They can be seen at the great Museum of Antiquities in Cairo, at the Great Pyramids of Gîza, at Sakkara near the site of ancient Memphis, at the Temples of Karnak and Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, near the site of ancient Thebes, and at countless other places in the Delta, the Nile Valley and the Fayoum.

The ancient empire gradually weakened and dissolved. In the interval Egypt became a great centre of Christianity and may indeed be considered to have been at an early period the most important Christian Community in the world, with many large churches and monasteries. A considerable Community of Christian Copts still survives, with an interesting and very ancient form of ritual, and the architectural monuments in the form of ancient churches and monasteries at Old Cairo, Wadi Natroun and elsewhere are of great interest and beauty.

The fate of Egypt was profoundly modified in the ninth century of our era by the rise of Islam and the Arab conquest, since when Egypt has become a great centre of Islamic learning and civilisation, and Arabic became the language of the country. Mediæval Cairo was evidently a place of great magnificence and beauty, of which very much still remains, including the Citadel, built by the Sultan Salah-ed-Din (the noble "Saladin" of European romance and history), the splendid gates Bab Zuweila and Bab el Nasr, extensive City Walls and some of the most beautiful places of worship in the world such as the great Mosques of Ibn Tulûn, Sultan Hassan, Kaït Bey and Sultan Qalaoun. There are also ancient caravanserais and beautiful merchants' and nobles' houses, many centuries old, hidden away in the winding streets and lanes of the old quarters which can be visited if one has the interest and patience to look. There is almost always a courteous Egyptian caretaker, only too pleased to show a visitor round.

The modern part of Cairo is much like any large city of the Mediterranean basin, with wide streets, white houses and large shops and hotels to meet every requirement of modern comfort and luxury. Cairo is the largest Islamic City in the world, with an ancient centre of Islamic learning: the University of El-Azhar.

Egypt is not, however, of interest merely on account of its history, monuments and buildings. The open country has an extraordinary charm, and the inhabitants of both town and country are picturesque and interesting in appearance and customs, extremely hospitable and pleasant mannered. The country is sharply divided into the desert and the sown, the boundary between which is almost a mathematical line, just the limit to which the Nile water can be made to carry, and within that line, enclosing Delta and Nile Valley, the fertility of the soil is amazing and almost incredible. There are endless fields of cotton, sugar-cane, rice, cereals, clover, onions and other crops according to the season, majestic groves of date-palms and orchards which bear oranges, tangerines, pomegranates and other fruits in profusion. The Delta is an almost level plain traversed by arms of the Nile and other waterways, along which passes an endless procession of great barges with huge lateen sails.

The northern coastal area, with its chain of great lakes, lagoons and sand-dunes and the picturesque historic towns of Rosetta and Damietta, is also of great charm and interest. Everywhere in the Delta one is in sight of peasantry, men, women and children, caring busily for their crops and domestic animals, sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes, donkeys, camels and horses. In the Nile Valley of Upper Egypt the scene changes. The people are

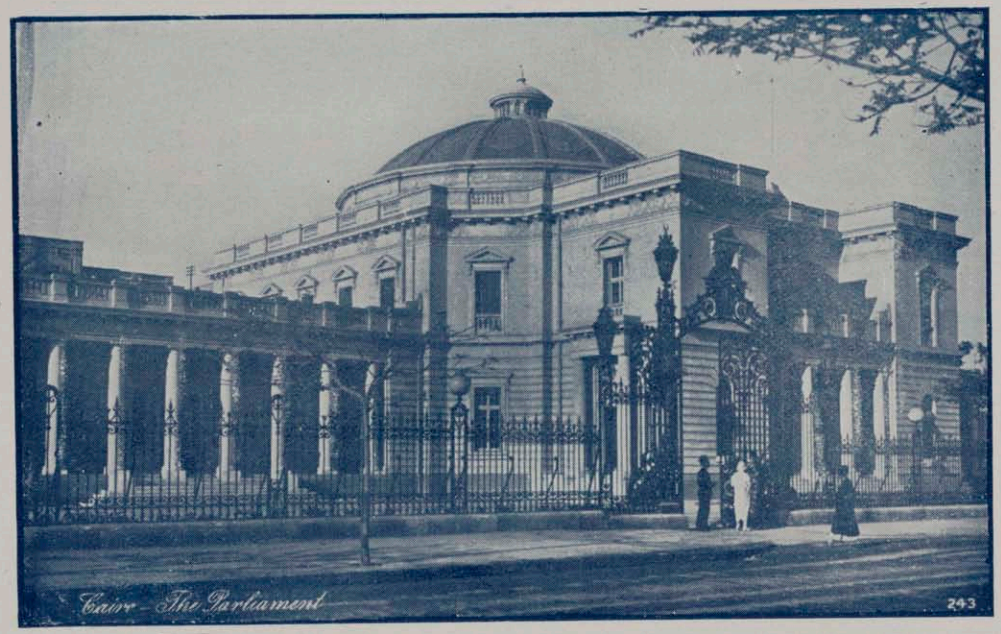
of darker colour and the scene usually bounded East and West by tawny bluffs of the edges of the Desert, making remarkable contrast with the luxurious green of the cultivated land bordering the great River. The width of the valley, from desert to desert, varies from about 16 miles to places where the desert actually bounds the River on either hand. The average width might be about 6 miles.

The weather is glorious. Excepting in the northern half of the Delta, there is practically no rainfall and there is usually a fresh northerly breeze. Beyond the valley eastward to the Red Sea, and westward more or less to the Atlantic stretches the desert, bare, silent and mountainous, especially to the east, where the air is like wine and the solitude and silence in startling contrast to the crowded life of the valley and Delta. A camel ride out into the desert on either hand, even for a dozen miles or so away from the valley, is an experience which nobody having the opportunity should miss, and the views of the valley from the edge of the desert, especially near dawn and sundawn, are superb.

If you wish to enjoy and appreciate Egypt to the full in town or country, do not always travel in a crowd, but sometimes wander off alone or in a small party through

the streets of Egyptian Cairo or the country roads and footpaths. You will be amply rewarded, especially if you have taken the trouble to learn a very few words of Arabic, so that you may pass the time of day and so forth. You may then chat with Cairo artisans who will show you how they ply their trades. You may share your sandwiches with some Egyptian peasant on the edge of the cultivation with the desert at your back, and, if you will, accept his invitation to a cup of coffee or tea, before his house or in his garden, or in his tent if he is a desert dweller. You will thus learn more of the East in a week than you might learn in a year spent in a large Cairo hotel ; and all the rest of your days you will remember the peace and beauty of the Egyptian country side.

A General View of Cairo.



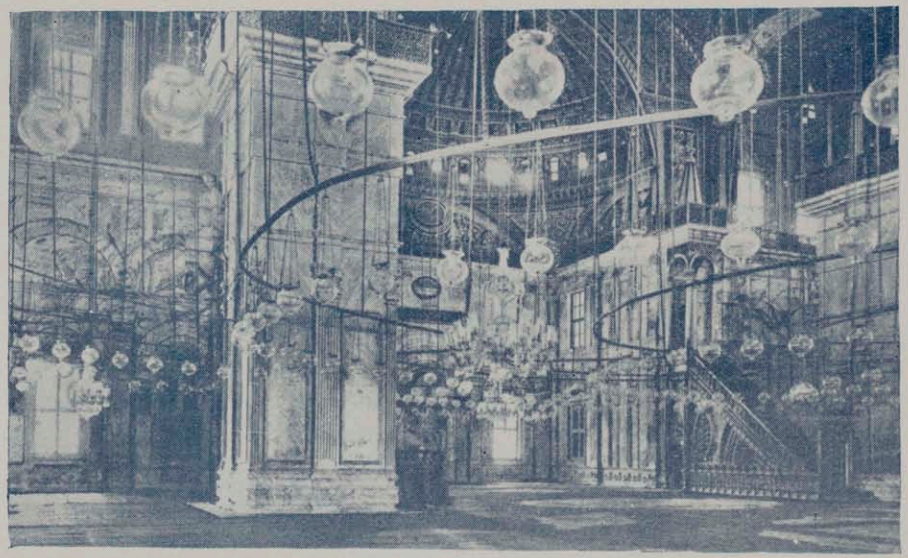
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM.

In this magnificent building are housed the treasures of the Antiquities Department of the Government of Egypt.

MOHAMMED ALI MOSQUE.

Also known as the "Alabaster Mosque," the lofty and slender minarets of which form one of the landmarks of Cairo. Commenced by Mohammed Ali on the site of a Palace which was blown up in 1824 it was completed in its present form by Saïd Pasha in 1857.



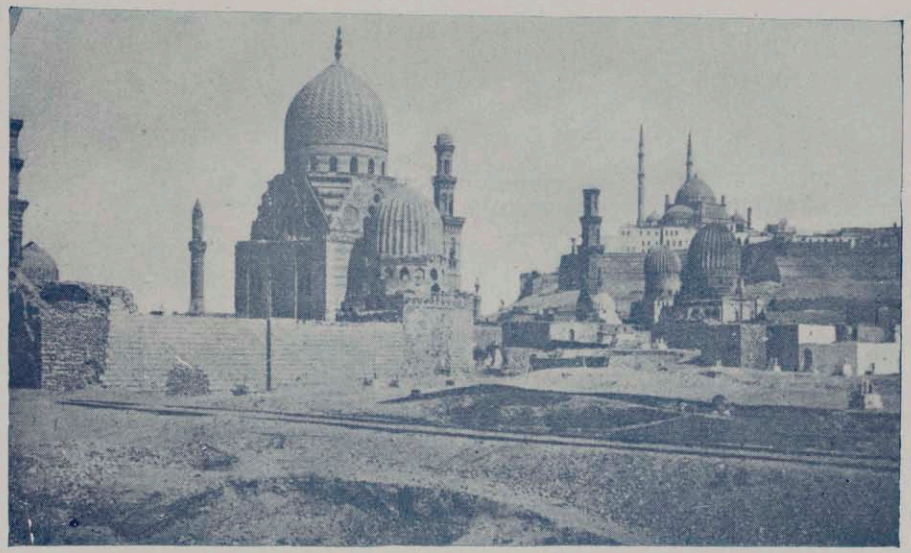
INTERIOR OF MOHAMMED ALI MOSQUE.

THE CITADEL.

The Citadel was begun in 1176 by Saladin and was built of stones taken, according to the very credible statements of Arab historians, from the smaller Pyramids at Gîza. Of the original structure three-quarter of the north half now remains. Although the fortress commands the City, it is itself commanded by the Moqattam heights, rising above immediately to the South; thus in 1805 Mohammed Ali was enabled, by means of a battery planted on the surrounding heights, to compel the Turkish Governor, Kurshid Pasha, to surrender the Citadel.

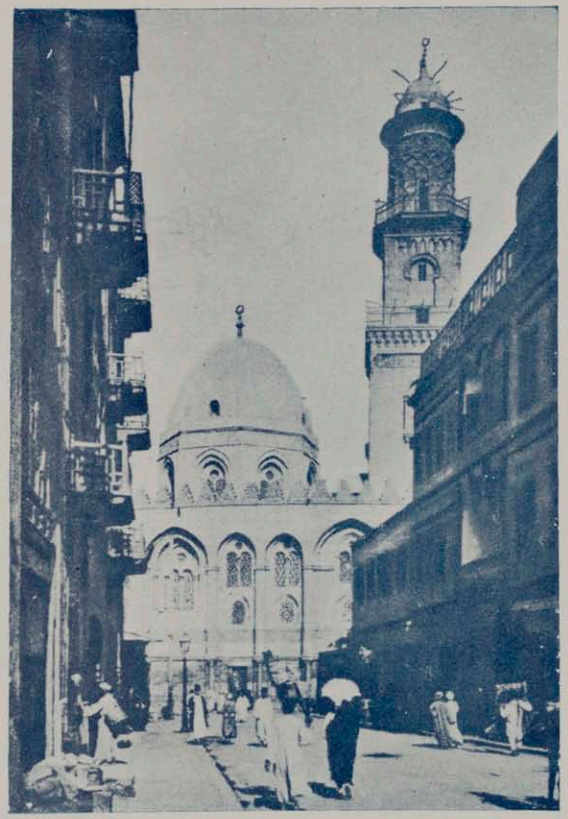
THE BLUE MOSQUE.

The Blue Mosque, which is actually named the Mosque of Ibrahim Agha, was built in 1347, by Kherbek, the traitor Mameluke, who afterwards became the first Pasha of Egypt, under the Turkish Sultans. In 1517 the mosque was rebuilt by Ibrahim Agha, who used blue tiles for its restoration.



THE TOMBS OF THE MAMELUKES.

The mediæval Arab mausolea of Egyptian rulers, known as the Tombs of the Mamelukes, were erected mainly by the Circassian Mamelukes. These mosque-tombs were originally provided with a numerous staff of sheikhs and attendants. The revenues of the mosques having been confiscated at the beginning of the 19th Century, the tombs gradually fell to ruin. Now, however, the Waqfs Ministry has taken them into its keeping and they are consequently being maintained in good condition.



Sultan Qalaoun Mosque.

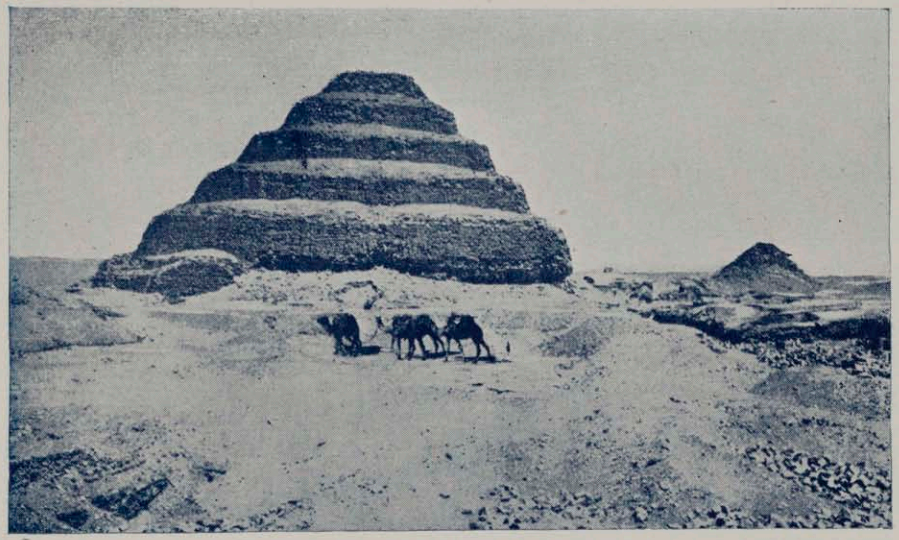
Bab Zuweila (The Town Gate).

The building dates from about the 12th Century. Sultan Selim I, of Turkey, on April 15th 1517, in order to establish the Turkish rule in Egypt, hanged here Tuman Bey, the last of the Circassian Sultans of Egypt.

TOMBS OF THE CALIPHS.

The Tombs of the Caliphs, like the Tombs of the Mamelukes, are the mediæval Arab mausolea of Egyptian rulers. The name, however, is historically a misnomer, for the Tombs have no connection with the Abbasid Caliphs then resident in Egypt.

DENDERA.—The outside of the Temple showing Cleopatra.



SAKKARA.—The Step Pyramid.

KARNAK.—Avenue of Sphinxes.

Luxor.—View of Open and Close Capitals Papyrus Columns.

LUXOR.—General View of the Temple.

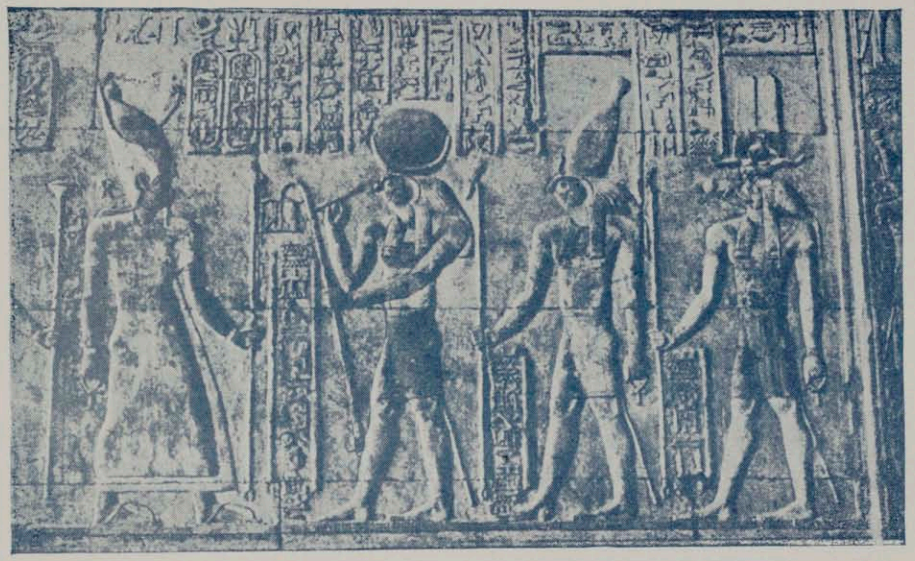
KARNAK.—The Entrance to the Temple of Mout and Amenophis Statue.

KARNAK.—Ptolomey Gateway and the Temple of Khonsu.

KARNAK.—The Two Obelisks of Queen Hatshepset and her Father Thothmes I.

KARNAK.—The Pillars in the Great Hypostyle Hall showing Thothmes Obelisk.

Kom-Ombo.—General View (the Mound of Ombo).



Kom-Ombo.—God Horus writing Long Life for the King.

Luxor.—Statue of Queen Nefert-Ari.

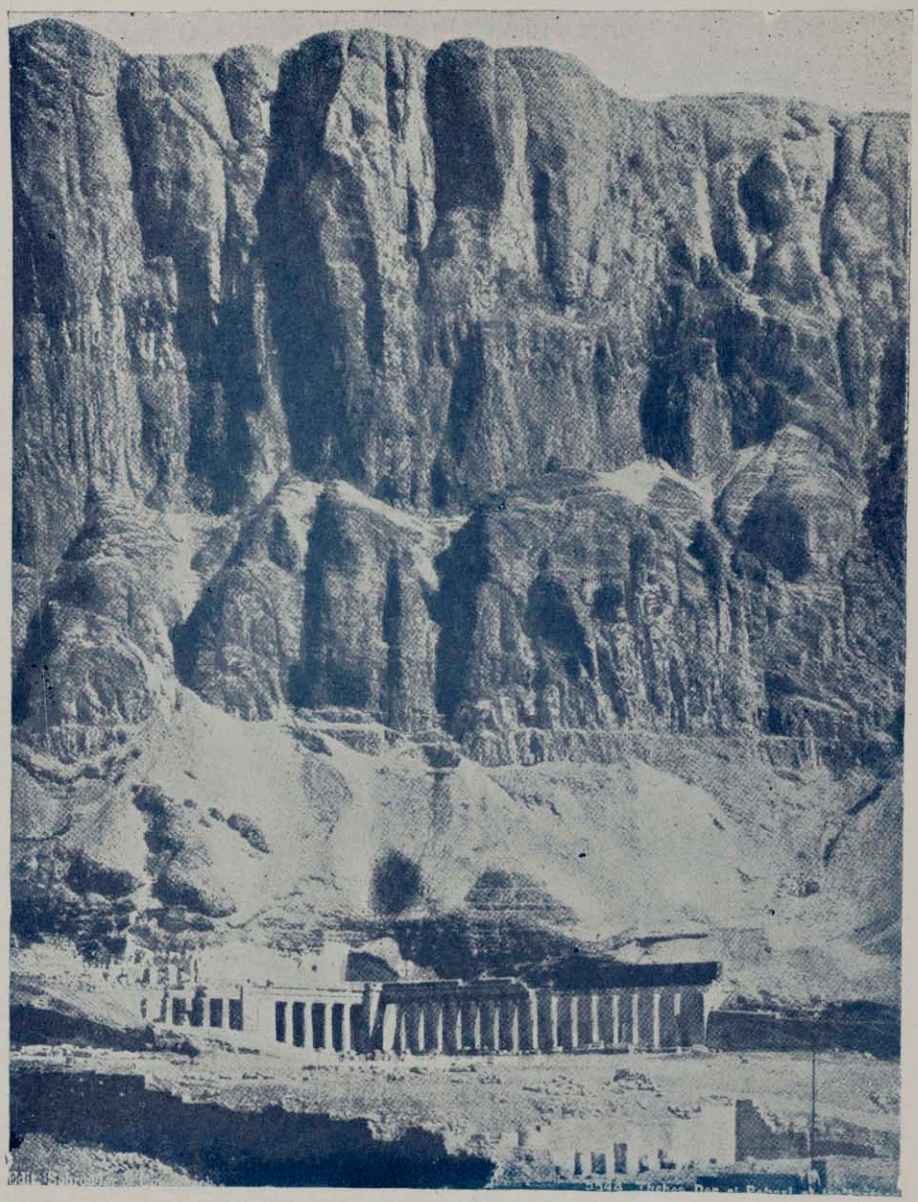
Memphis.—The Colossal Statue of Ramses II.

MEMPHIS.—The Head of the Statue of Ramses II.

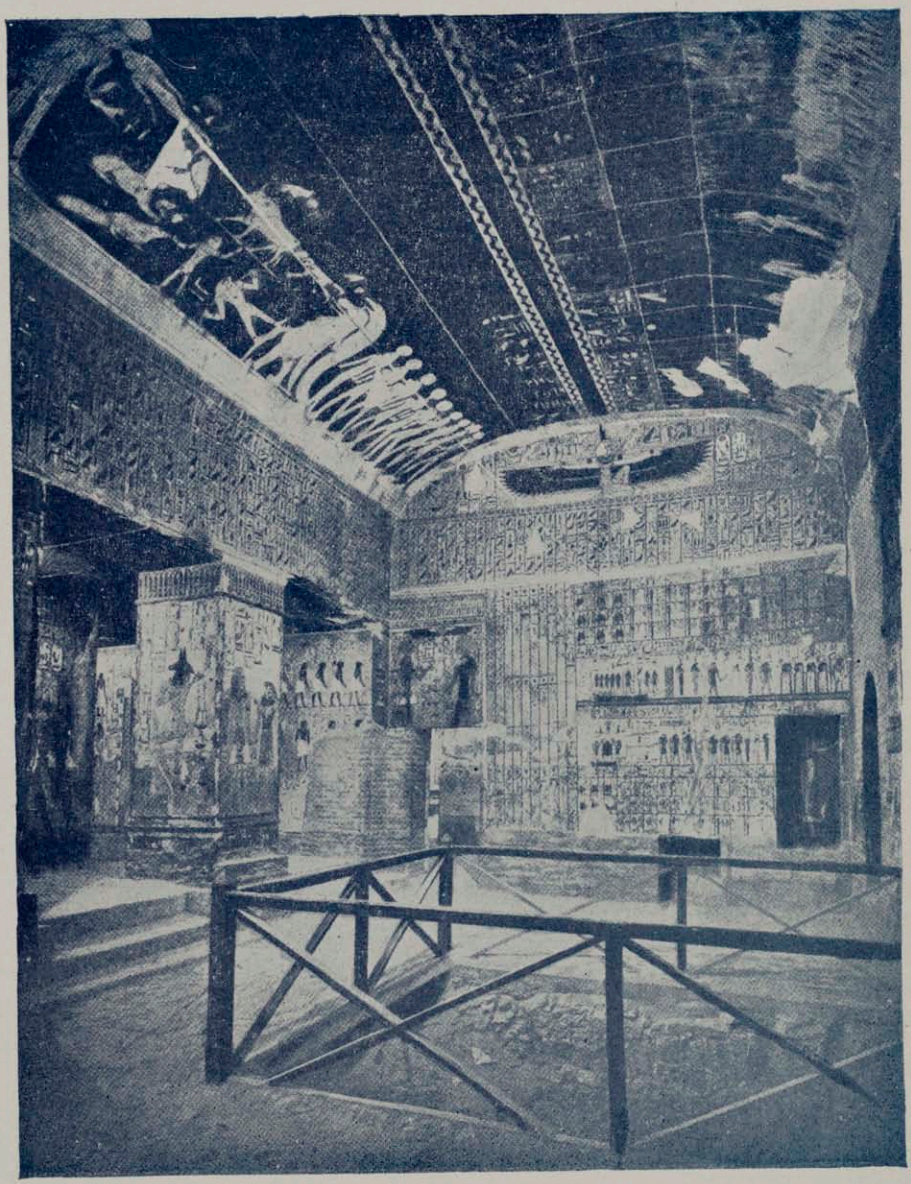
MEMPHIS.—The Alabaster Sphinx.

LUXOR.—The Great Court.

THE TOMB OF NAKHT (Hunting and Fishing).



THE TEMPLE OF DEIR-EL-BAHARI (Thebes).

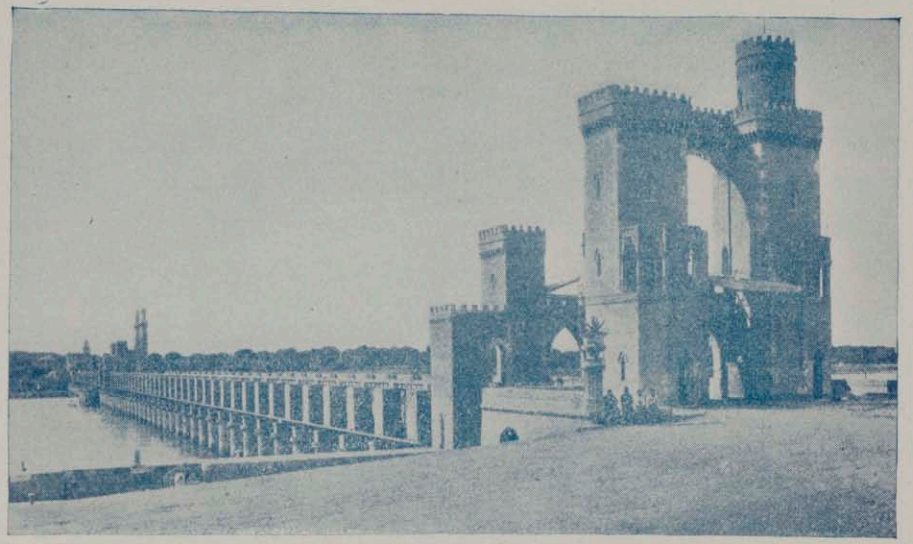


Tomb of Seti I (The Golden Hall).

TOMB OF NEFERT-ARI (The Queen conducted by Isis).

THE NILE DAM AT ASWAN.

The Aswan Dam or Barrage, built in 1898-1912 below Philæ, is one of the largest structures of the kind in the world and ranks among the sights of Egypt. It was constructed in order to dam up the water of the Nile so that a regular supply could be furnished during the time of low water. By this means the country can be regularly irrigated all the year round, and many irrigation canals that used formerly to run dry periodically now receive a constant supply of water. The dam is built of granite blocks and runs straight across the river-channel for a distance of 2150 yards. The height of the dam was originally 130 ft. above the foundation but this was increased by 16 ½ ft. in 1907/1912, so that the storage-lake formed above the dam has now a capacity of 594-000 million gallons, a depth of 88 ft. and an extent upstream, when full, of 185 m. The Egyptian Government has decided to raise the dam (in 1929-33) by another 18 feet. The masonry is penetrated by 180 sluice gates for regulating the flow of the water.



THE DELTA BARRAGE.

The Delta Barrage is a wonderful dam built across the Nile, and is one of the largest in the world. It regulates the whole irrigation of the Delta, and was the first of its kind in Egypt. It was commenced by Mohammed Ali in 1835, finished by Abbas Pasha I. Twenty years later, it was rebuilt by Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, who took the work in hand and completed the structure, so that it now fulfils its original purpose.

The Barrage stands at the head of the Delta where the Nile divides into the two branches, which eventually reach the Mediterranean at Damietta and Rosetta. In the spring and early summer very little water is allowed to pass along these branches, the whole supply being practically diverted into the three great canals that radiate from the Barrage.

THE COLOSSIS OF MEMNON.

AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT

Agriculture is the main pursuit of the present Egyptians as it was with their ancestors ruled by the Pharaohs. Out of the present population of 14,168,756 there are 2,077,584 landowners, that is 14·6 per cent. Almost half the male inhabitants are engaged in agriculture. Moreover, most of the other occupations are in some way or other linked with agriculture. Most of the farms are in the hands of small landowners. The farmer is active, painstaking and well experienced in his profession. The land is a rich alluvium formed from the silt brought down from the mountains of Abyssinia by the great River Nile.

Two systems of irrigation are practised. The older system of basin irrigation is now limited to about one-third of the total cultivated area, which is about 6,500,000 acres. Under this system, the land is divided by embankments into big basins of variable dimensions. Water is applied to a depth of 3 to 6 feet during the annual flood time. After reaching that level, the water is drained off into the Nile, which in the meantime has

fallen. [In the southern basins, which are flooded early in the season, the water remains at the high level for two weeks or more. After running out the water, sowing takes place with very little preparation of the land. Only one crop a year can normally be raised in basin lands as no water is available before the next flood season. By the help of artesian pumps, a certain area of the basin lands can, however, be grown with summer crops — mainly cotton.

In the Delta lands and the northern provinces of Upper Egypt a network of canals — fed from the Nile by the help of weirs and a barrage — has made it possible to supply irrigation water throughout the year and hence two or three crops can be taken from the land in one year.

Irrigation works to increase and control the supply of the great River will further increase the area of basin lands converted into perennially irrigated areas, and will make possible the reclamation of an additional area in the north of the Delta.

The perennial system of irrigation has the drawback of the land being liable to salt impregnation because of the rise in the level of subsoil water. This is being remedied by another network of open drains carrying out the surplus water into the northern lakes

on the Mediterranean Sea coast. The two systems of irrigation and drainage play the most important part in the productivity of the land.

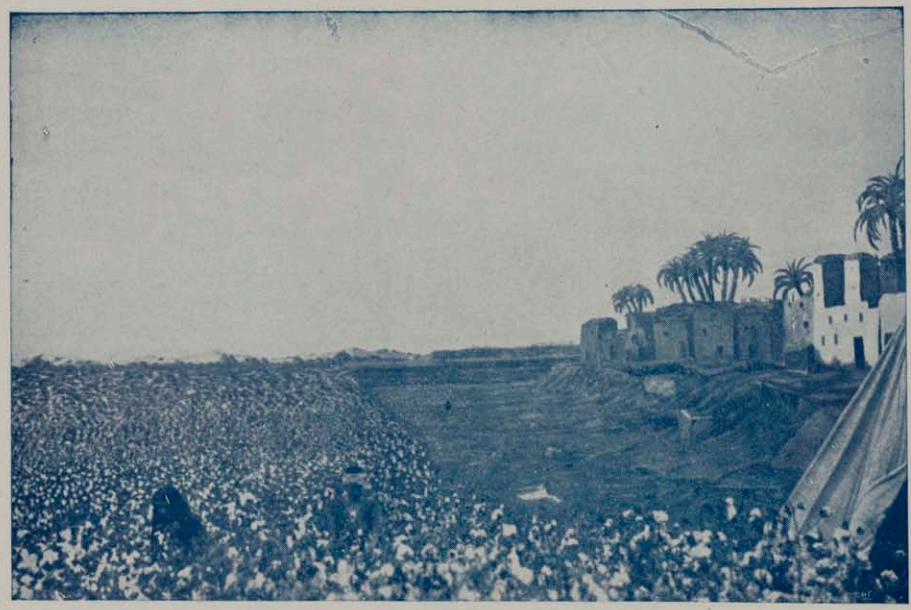
There are three main sowing seasons in Egypt. From February to May are sown summer crops like cotton, rice, sugar-cane, millet, pea-nuts or sesame. Winter crops are sown about the month of November and include cereals, beans, onions, flax, lentils and clover. The flood sowing season falls about August when the main crop sown is maize or rice. By far the most important crop of the country is cotton, which covers an area of about 1,520,000 acres.

Special attention is given to maintaining the unique position of Egypt as producing the bulk of the world's supply of fine cotton. The seed must now be approved by the Government before it can be used in sowing. Special officials are detailed to supervise the ginning of the cotton from which seed for sowing is taken. The resultant seed is tested before it is bagged and sealed as approved "tagawi" (seed for sowing) and is kept under control during its passage to the hand of the cultivator. About 20 per cent of the total amount of seed sown is supplied by the Government from crops grown under its control. New and selected strains of cotton are raised and tested before they are propagated

on a big scale. Research work connected with agriculture is mainly carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, which employs probably the finest body of research workers in the world on investigations connected with cotton. The Royal Agricultural Society and other scientific societies also render great services in the advancement of agricultural knowledge.

H.M. King Fouad I is keenly interested in all things pertaining to agriculture and all scientific bodies in the country particularly owe Him a debt of gratitude for His interest and His active support of their efforts.

HOUSE-BOATS ON THE NILE.
Life on a house-boat is ideal both during the summer and winter.



A Typical Cotton Field.

A Typical Sugar-cane Field.

REVIVAL OF INDUSTRIAL EGYPT

Egypt's wealth has been derived in the past mainly from agriculture, for which it enjoys great natural advantages in the fertility of its soil and in its climate. There have been, however, times of considerable industrial activity during comparatively recent periods of its history; one of the most notable of these periods was as recent as the time of Mohammed Ali, during whose reign (1805–1849) there was an immense development of Egyptian industry over a wide range.

While this development was no doubt encouraged largely in order to provide for requirements arising out of military operations, it was by no means limited to those needs, but extended also to industries which depended for their success on the peace time necessities of the country. On the death of Mohammed Ali the industries which had been established through his energy and initiative fell into decay, for reasons which we need not discuss here, and Egypt again became increasingly dependent on its agricultural wealth. The difficulties involved in maintaining the prosperity of

industries and manufactures developed to meet war-time requirements on a large scale are not peculiar to Egypt or to the time following the death of Mohammed Ali.

It must be recognised that owing to the absence of certain natural facilities, such as an abundant supply of cheap coal and power, there are some manufacturing industries in which Egypt will find it difficult to compete under present conditions with large scale production in modern industrial countries. There is no reason, though, why the development of industrial and manufacturing activity which has manifested itself in Egypt during recent years should not continue at an increasing rate, particularly in those industries which serve local needs and for which the necessary raw material is available in Egypt. The supply of labour is abundant, and shows qualities of industry and adaptability ; closer supervision is no doubt required initially than is found necessary in highly developed industrial countries, but the work of the Egyptian craftsman of to-day shows that he has inherited some of that skill of his forebears in the earlier stages of Egyptian history which is the admiration of the modern world.

There already exist in Egypt, on a very substantial scale, certain industries, such as petroleum and sugar refining, which need not fear competition from any point of view,

with similar industries established in any part of the world. Petroleum-refining is carried on at Suez at the refinery of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., which employs nearly 900 workmen and treats annually, for sale in Egypt and for export, about 400,000 tons of crude oil, of which about 120,000 tons are imported and 280,000 tons produced at Hurghada, on the Egyptian coast, 200 miles south of Suez.

The processes employed at the refinery are of the most modern and scientific type ; one of its features is the asphalt plant, with a monthly capacity of 8,000 tons, for the manufacture of asphalt from Hurghada crude oil. Large quantities of Egyptian asphalt are shipped to foreign countries after the demands on the Company for local consumption have been met. The refinery includes a modern plant for the manufacture of 42-gallon iron barrels for asphalt and lubricating oil, with an output of 1,500 barrels a day. The tin-making shop of the Shell Company, with a turn out of 10,000 four-gallon tins a day, adjoins the refinery of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

Sugar manufacture and refining is carried on by the *Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte*, which was established more than 30 years ago for the main purpose of manufacturing and refining sugar produced from cane grown in Egypt. The

production of sugar by this Company has been in the neighbourhood of 100,000 tons a year, and there appears to be no reason why it should not be increased sufficiently to meet the whole of the requirements of the country. The business of the Société is carried on in accordance with the most up-to-date methods, and as approximately 20,000 Egyptian workmen are employed in the factories; it is one of the most important manufacturing activities in the country.

Cotton spinning and weaving on factory scale have until quite recently been carried on by only one factory in Egypt — that belonging to the *Filature Nationale d'Egypte* at Alexandria, which was established in 1912. Since its foundation the Company has made use of modern methods of manufacture, and has provided skilled employment for a considerable amount of Egyptian labour in its factory. Another modern factory for cotton spinning and weaving has recently been established, under the auspices of the Banque Misr, at Mehalla-el-Kobra, where the most up-to-date machinery has been installed and every provision has been made for the health and comfort of the workmen. This factory is rapidly extending in size and activity and has recently installed bleaching and dyeing equipment and machines for spinning and weaving linen, all of which are already in operation.

Under the same auspices the most modern silk weaving machinery has recently been installed in a factory at Damietta by the *Société Misr pour le Tissage de la Soie.* Silk weaving has been carried on successfully at Damietta for a long time, so there will be no difficulty in securing the necessary skilled labour ; a large increase in production is anticipated shortly. Mention may also be made of the manufacture of surgical cotton wool, which, although not an industry of major importance, has made remarkable progress during the last years.

The manufacture of artificial Portland cement in Egypt on any large scale is of comparatively modern growth, but shows most satisfactory development during recent years both in quality and quantity of output. There is a substantial and continuous demand for cement, and the constituents necessary for its manufacture exist in Egypt in abundance, so that there is ample scope for the further development of the industry. The manufacture of reinforced concrete products, such as pipes, has also progressed satisfactorily, and will no doubt show further development.

The manufacture of building materials is of considerable importance. The best known factory is that of S. Sornaga, the output of which includes not only bricks, tiles, enamelled

sanitary ware, glazed tiles, stoneware pipes and fittings, and other articles required for the building industry, but also refractory materials for high temperatures, artistic pottery, and semi-porcelain crockery. This factory was established in the year 1905, and has made continuous progress, both in the quantity and the variety of its output, and it has recently been employing more than 1,500 workmen.

The manufacture of cigarettes is another flourishing industry employing a large number of workers. Although the whole of the tobacco used is imported, the industry not only supplies home requirements but, on the excellent reputation acquired by the Egyptian manufactured article, has also built up a flourishing export trade.

Soap manufacture and tanning are carried on in Egypt, but the methods adopted are not, as a rule, of the most modern kind, and these industries should be susceptible of considerable improvement and extension. Steps are contemplated which should bring about an improvement in the quality of the hides available for the local tanning industry and an extension of the use of modern scientific principles. Improvement of the tanning industry will also be of assistance to machine-made boot and shoe manufacturing, which has recently been established in Egypt on modern lines.

The dyeing industry in Egypt furnishes employment for a large number of workmen, but with rare exceptions it is conducted on a small scale and the methods employed are antiquated and inefficient. The Government has erected a model dye-house in order to encourage the adoption of more modern processes and generally to bring about an improvement in the industry, which is likely to expand with the development of the textile industry.

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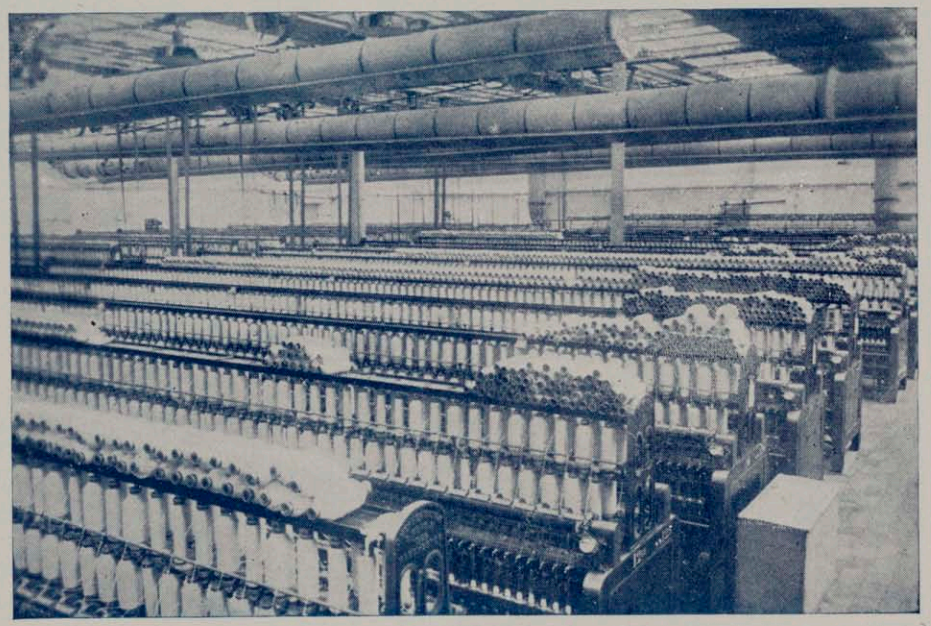
These brief particulars of some of Egypt's industrial and manufacturing activities show that there has been an appreciable development in recent years — a time, moreover, when general conditions have not been encouraging. While some industries are carried on efficiently and in accordance with modern practice, there is room not only for a considerable extension of the use of scientific principles in some of the existing industries, which should result in an improved demand for Egyptian products, but also for the establishment of new industries in which the country has natural advantages of one kind or another.

Cotton Ring Spinning Frames.



RING SPINNING FRAMES IN COTTON SHED.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE OF EGYPT

I.—Historical Summary

The climatic and geological conditions of a country, together with its geographical situation, in a word its physical conditions, are the basis of its civilisation and of its economic activity. The whole ancient and modern history of Egypt, and one might say of the whole world, confirms this obvious truth.

In fact, it is due to its physical conditions that Egypt was the home of the most glorious of the civilisations of antiquity. Egypt has always been rich in spite of the rapacity and vandalism of its invaders; it is due to these conditions that the wealth of Egypt was able to survive the most disastrous administration which had ever been known, namely that of the Mamelukes ; it is due to these that Egypt has attained its modern renaissance,

owing to the happy circumstances by which it has not ceased to be favoured and to the ceaseless labour of its true children, the Fellahin ; it is finally due to these that Egypt may attain and will attain the degree of prosperity which it deserves. " It is only necessary (to the Egyptians) that they should realise the richness of their soil and all the advantages of their position in order that their country should once more become the centre of commerce of the ancient continent " (Description de l'Egypte, Vol. XVIII). The above lines, written more than a century ago, have a remarkable character of actuality. One can only say that one could not better describe the situation of Egypt to-day.

Does this indicate that Egypt has made no progress for a century ? Far from us be any such heresy ! Such a view would be contradicted by the figures which we cite below, which confirm the evident facts. We go further and say that in the history of the development of modern nations Egypt is perhaps the only country which, without any important industry and merely by the exploitation of the surface of its soil, has been able in a relatively very short time to increase so considerably its productivity and as a consequence its national wealth.

It is generally agreed that the economic renaissance of Egypt dates from the reign of Mohammed Ali the Great, the founder of the reigning dynasty and the creator of the independence of the country.

Of economical resources, that illustrious Sovereign had only agriculture—the condition of which may easily be imagined if one remembers that the peasant had since time immemorial been deprived of the right of ownership of the soil and even of the right to dispose freely of his crops—moreover the situation of commerce was characterised by laws restricting foreign trade, by the prohibition of residence for foreigners, by the absence of all security of inland communication and by a commercial organisation and legislation which were only remarkable by their complete absence. But at the same time the defence of the liberty acquired by the conquest of internal and foreign enemies required financial resources both large and urgent.

The economic and social policy of Mohammed Ali was firstly and principally inspired by this urgency and secondly by the principle that, in the ruinous and discouraged condition of Egypt, "liberty would require a very strong nourishment and a very brisk atmosphere

for enfeebled agriculture and commerce''. He cared for them as though they were invalids who would die if they were abandoned to the sole operation of nature.

When Mohammed Ali took over the destinies of Egypt, it had 2,460,080 inhabitants, and its foreign trade (imports and exports) amounted to 15 million francs.

Towards the end of his reign the population was almost double (4,480,000) and the foreign trade was more than 122 million francs, namely 67 millions of exports and 55 millions of imports.

In other words although the Egyptian soil had had to nourish double the number of persons, and in addition to the more developed requirements due to the reign of liberty and progress, the production of its soil permitted an excess for exportation eight times as large as in 1800.

We will now attempt to summarise the range of the economic and social activities of Mohammed Ali of which we have already given the obvious and ultimate results.

He introduced the spirit of religious and social tolerance, the first condition requisite for the development of healthy, domestic and international competition.

He sought and attained the suppression of an arbitrary system and its replacement by a judicial administration. He promoted the education of the people and instilled in the higher classes a desire for knowledge. He established a large system of irrigation works, canals and barrages and commenced with success to put it into practice. Clot Bey estimates that up to 1836 Mohammed Ali had excavated 104 million cubic metres, had raised 40 million cubic metres and had constructed 2,814,000 cubic metres of masonry in connection with irrigation and internal communication. He improved the means of communication both on land and river, created from several existing canals the Mahmudieh canal, which is still one of the principal arteries of internal trade and started the development of the port of Alexandria.

He introduced the intensive cultivation of cotton which remains the principal source of national wealth. He improved the conditions of the life of the people, the purchasing power of whom, as we have seen, increased considerably.

We append the statistical results of all this effort in so far as it affected trade. In order to show its importance we include statistics of population.

Years.	Population (millions).	Commerce			Cotton Exports
		Imports	Exports	Total	
		Thousands of L.E.	Thousands of L.E.	Thousands of L.E.	Thousands of Kantars.
1800	2·4	269	288	557	000
1836	3·6	2,685	2,115	4,800	243
1850	4·6	1,398	2,302	3,700	365
1855	5·0	2,109	4,591	6,700	523
1860	5·5	2,410	3,090	5,500	501
1870	6·0	5,605	9,995	15,600	1,362
1875	6·3	5,619	13,333	18,952	2,107
1880	6·7	8,692	13,178	21,870	3,199

In less than 75 years the foreign trade of Egypt increased by more than 3,000 per cent, whilst during the same period its population increased nearly three-fold.

With regard to exports the rate of growth was even greater than that of general trade, as they increased from L.E. 288,000 to about 10 million pounds. The ascent of the curve of the volume of foreign trade was continued and even accentuated after 1880.

Years	Imports	Exports	Total
	Thousands of L.E.	Thousands of L.E.	Thousands of L.E.
Year **1884**	10,355	12,943	23,298
Average **1885–1889**	10,499	13,197	23,696
,, **1890–1894**	11,785	15,111	26,896
,, **1895–1899**	13,901	15,290	29,191
,, **1900–1904**	21,501	20,612	42,113
,, **1905–1909**	30,374	28,489	58,863
,, **1910–1914**	33,920	37,407	71,327
,, **1915–1919**	37,274	45,429	82,703
,, **1920–1924**	60,234	59,030	119,264
,, **1925–1929**	53,872	51,577	105,449
Year **1930**	47,187	31,941	79,128
,, **1931**	31,528	28,074	59,602
,, **1932**	27,426	26,987	54,413

II.—General Description of Egyptian Foreign Trade

The foreign trade of a country is a fairly reliable basis for judging the character of its economic activity and the customs statistics consequently constitute a mirror in which a general aspect of this activity is reflected sufficiently faithfully to form the basis of an opinion.

Now from the statistics of its foreign trade given above it follows very clearly that the general lines of Egyptian economics have not changed considerably since the extension of cotton cultivation practised by Mohammed Ali, and the changes in detail which one observes, although very important, have not always been favourable to Egypt.

For over a century and until the last few years Egypt has imported from abroad practically all the manufactured products required by its population and it has from time immemorial paid for these imports and for other expenditure almost exclusively by the export of unworked products of its soil.

Now in exclusively agricultural countries trade is subject to considerable fluctuations due to periodicities and variation of the yields and prices of the harvest and also to the

changes caused thereby in the purchasing power of those who live mainly by agriculture. This is of course the case of Egypt, which is essentially an agricultural country, with the aggravating circumstances :—

(1) That the purchasing power of the whole country depends largely on the quantitative and qualitative results of a single crop.

(2) That both the yield and value of this crop are subject to variations proportionally much larger than those of other agricultural products.

In order to neutralise the unsatisfactory effects of monoculture the Egyptian Government has latterly encouraged by every means in its power the development and improvement of other crops, the introduction of new crops, the increase of agricultural exports by the opening of new outlets, the creation of new agricultural industries and the protection of existing industries.

From this standpoint the years 1930 and 1931 are of exceptional interest. One of the principal methods adopted is the new customs tariff, which is predominantly specific and which has been in force since February 1930. It has the following objects :—

To increase the Government revenue, which was increasingly burdened by the urgent need of national economy, by taxing a certain number of articles and applying excise duties on products which were easily able to support these ; to aid agriculture by protecting the cultivation of wheat, rice, sugar-cane, fruit and vegetables and also industries of mainly agricultural interest such as milling, sugar manufacture, etc., and by contributing finally to the development of national industries. This new tariff appears to have increased the principal source of Government revenue which had been gravely affected by the crisis ; it also contributed to the development of natural industries.

But it must be stated on grounds of fairness that the rates in the new customs tariff now in operation are extremely moderate compared with the rates levied in most other countries of the world — the old customs tariff (that prior to 1930) was fixed, according to conventions that expired in 1930, at a uniform *ad valorem* duty of 8 % on most articles and consequently afforded almost no protection to home products.

In this connection it seems advisable to summarise here the facts relating to the principal industrial products exported and to a certain number of by-products, facts which illustrate the activity of our work during the period of serious depression.

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED.

Products	Unit	1931	1932	Products	Unit	1931	1932
Cotton seed oil ...	Tons	7,901	8,520	Fuel oil	Tons	87,957	95,074
,, ,, cake ...	,,	188,823	186,711	Tar, petroleum-coke, etc.	,,	35,198	43,322
Bran	,,	5,721	22,531	Caustic soda	,,	312	1,282
Molasses	,,	17,498	32,712	Soap	Kg.	38,708	33,718
Sugar	Kg.	1,250	443,989	Raw moist and dry hides	Tons	2,333	1,943
Confectionery ...	,,	122,506	134,882	Cigarette paper, prepared	,,	83,742	89,170
Food pastes	,,	13,574	19,254	Leather footwear ...	Pairs	17,326	29,187
Beer	,,	365,869	289,632	Rice	Tons	31,133	46,781
Cigarettes	,,	252,573	259,566				
Gasolene	Tons	52,611	62,594				
Kerosene	,,	153	347				

A large proportion of these products is exported to neighbouring countries and more particularly to the Levant, but considerable quantities are also exported to Europe.

One observes that the tenacious energy of our industrialists has already created an important export trade which should be encouraged and helped in order to open up new outlets for our products.

Moreover the economic policy followed for some time by the Egyptian Government tends to encourage the cultivation of vegetables and fruit and to the development of their products. With this object the Government has raised the tariffs on imported fruit and has assisted those growers who transformed their lands into orchards.

It may be remarked in this connection that the Government has submitted to real sacrifices in order to attain the desired object, as on the one hand it has incurred considerable losses in the form of reduced customs revenue on imported fruit, and on the other hand it has accorded important credits for the exploitation of experimental fields and for its model farms.

These various measures have resulted in very favourable results. The value of imported fresh fruit which had attained L.E. 643,837 in 1930, fell to L.E. 354,550 in 1931 and to L.E. 237,867 in 1932, being a decrease of 45 and 63 per cent respectively on the year 1930.

The two principal centres of foreign trade, both export and import trade, are Cairo and the large Mediterranean port of Alexandria, where large English, French, Greek, Italian, German, Swiss and other firms are established and where in recent years there have

also been located other large firms which are purely Egyptian. The port of Suez, the only one of importance on the Red Sea, is the centre of trade with Arabia, South Africa, the Persian Gulf, India and the Far East, China, Japan, Java, Australia, etc.

The following table shows the importance of each port for the foreign trade of Egypt :—

STATISTICS OF THE PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS OFFICES.

Customs Stations.		Imports.	Exports.	Re-exports.	Transit.	Total.
		L.E.	L.E.	L.E.	L.E.	L.E.
Alexandria	1931	24,683,670	25,982,434	517,997	18,572	51,202,673
	1932	21,501,982	23,789,660	493,005	59,664	45,844,311
Port Said	1931	4,595,723	1,071,102	95,497	1,437,222	7,199,544
	1932	3,257,953	1,811,272	97,955	1,031,352	6,198,532
Suez	1931	1,858,779	674,016	16,785	211,667	2,761,247
	1932	2,408,307	833,035	15,404	138,569	3,395,315
Other Stations	1931	389,995	346,078	92,820	24,068	852,961
	1932	257,449	553,450	115,407	—	926,306
Totals	1931	31,528,167	28,073,630	723,099	1,691,529	62,016,425
	1932	27,425,691	26,987,417	721,771	1,229,585	56,364,464

We will now consider the changes which are observed in the foreign trade of Egypt and consequently in its general economy.

The list of articles imported into Egypt from various sources is naturally much longer than that of the merchandise exported. For this reason we must limit ourselves in the following table to those of most importance :—

VALUE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED INTO EGYPT (IN THOUSANDS OF EGYPTIAN POUNDS).

Articles	1929		1930		1931		1932	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Cotton textiles	6711	12·0	5161	10·9	3326	10·5	3392	12·7
Metal and metal work	2626	4·7	2606	5·5	2023	6·4	1510	5·5
Electric machinery	2039	3·6	2266	4·8	193	0·6	155	0·6
Fertilisers	2548	4·5	2418	5·1	1800	5·7	1652	6·0
Constructional timber	2090	3·7	2184	4·6	785	2·5	759	2·8
Wheat and maize flour	2921	5·2	2114	4·5	1167	3·7	516	1·9
Coal	1819	3·2	1523	3·2	1399	4·4	1164	4·2
Crude and refined sugar...	1171	2·1	1501	3·2	39	1·0	7	0·0
Tobacco and cigars	1454	2·6	1170	2·5	1883	6·0	1624	5·9
Mineral oil	1228	2·0	1072	2·3	564	1·8	719	2·6
Woollen fabrics	1272	2·3	1004	2·1	579	1·8	599	2·3
Fresh and dry fruits	881	1·6	985	2·0	637	2·0	507	1·8
Silk fabrics	981	1·7	881	1·9	869	2·8	923	3·4

VALUE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED INTO EGYPT (IN THOUSANDS OF EGYPTIAN POUNDS) (*contd.*).

Articles	1929		1930		1931		1932	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Fabrics of cotton mixed with artificial silk	1.069	1·9	870	1·8	482	1·5	196	0·7
Spirits and drinks	906	1·6	714	1·5	545	1·7	487	1·8
Motors, vehicles and chassis	951	1·7	679	1·4	652	2·1	404	1·5
Coffee	775	1·4	637	1·3	400	1·3	404	1·5
Paper and books	946	1·7	602	1·2	759	2·4	705	2·6
Kerosene	731	1·3	569	1·2	262	0·8	192	0·7
Empty sacks	6	1·2	545	1·1	292	0·9	311	1·1
Vegetable oil	484	0·9	497	1·0	327	1·0	340	1·2
Tea	646	1·2	484	1·0	519	1·6	490	1·5

A single glance at the preceding table suffices to explain the importance of textiles of all kinds imported into Egypt. In fact the proportion occupied by this group is not less than 17 to 18 per cent of the total imports. There follow in order of importance metals and metal work, chemical or artificial fertilisers, tobacco, coal, etc.

The export trade is of the first importance to Egypt both on account of its value in normal times (for example, during the 5 years 1925–1929 it rose to an annual average of

51·5 millions L.E.) and also because it almost attains the value of the imports and is occasionally even larger (for example in 1925 and 1926).

The following figures fully confirm the importance of cotton as an item of the export trade of Egypt. In fact even in 1836 when the exportation of cotton was only 263,000 kantars, these represented 44·3 per cent of the total value of exports.

VALUE OF EGYPTIAN EXPORTS (IN THOUSANDS OF POUNDS).

	1836		1929		1930		1931		1932	
	L.E.	%	L.E.	%	L.E.	%	L.E.	%	L.E.	%
Cotton and cotton seed	920	44·3	43,972	84·9	25,653	80·3	21,125	75·6	19,203	71·1
Cotton seed cake ...	—	—	607	1·2	907	2·8	791	2·8	799	3·0
Cotton seed oil ...	—	—	7	0·9	425	1·3	288	1·0	315	1·2
Other exports	1,156	55·7	6,702	13·0	4,956	15·6	5,870	20·6	6,670	24·7
TOTAL	2,076		51,753		31,941		28,074		26,987	

The preceding table justifies the following deductions ; although Egypt was at one time a country exporting foodstuffs, spices and dye-stuffs, it has been until the last few

years more or less tributary to foreign countries in consequence of the decrease, not absolute, but relative to its total production, of cereals and other foodstuffs. In fact in 1836 foodstuffs figured at 14·5 per cent and in 1870 at 19 per cent of the total exports.

Meanwhile the various measures taken during the last 5 years by the Egyptian Government in order to stimulate and develop its natural industries and the various crops of the country have yielded most encouraging results as although the exports in 1932 showed a decrease of 48 per cent compared with the total compared in 1929, the value of the various goods exported other than cotton and its by-products represented a share of 24·7 per cent as against barely 13 per cent in 1929.

III.—Participation of Various Countries in our Foreign Trade

It is true that the foreign trade of Egypt has not changed much with regard to the articles bought and sold, but it is not less true that it has changed considerably with regard to the countries of origin and destination of the merchandise, as is shown by the following table :—

THE PARTS PER 1,000 FOR PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION ON THE TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Country of Origin and Destination	Imports.						Exports.					
	1836	Average		1930	1931	1932	1836	Average		1930	1931	1932
		1920–24	1925–29					1920–24	1925–29			
Austria	209	8	12	13	12	9	255	3	5	7	11	6
Belgium	—	23	40	39	39	46	—	6	6	8	8	8
France	90	82	102	94	98	72	200	104	118	144	128	103
Germany... ...	—	45	67	79	81	70	—	40	58	79	91	98
Greece	15	22	19	20	21	23	18	6	8	8	8	8
Italy	148	76	94	91	92	89	91	50	62	62	60	81
Japan	—	16	24	37	49	79	—	27	35	30	48	48
Russia	—	10	15	19	14	26	—	1	28	53	61	5
Switzerland ...	—	13	11	12	13	11	—	31	37	39	35	27
Turkey	239	17	22	21	24	17	327	2	3	1	1	1
UnitedKingdom	224	324	231	238	226	240	91	468	404	345	359	384
United States of America ...	—	37	46	47	43	32	—	182	134	61	25	50
Other Countries	75	327	317	290	288	286	18	80	102	163	165	181
TOTAL ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

United States of America.—The trade between the United States and Egypt has suffered large fluctuations in the last few years. It is true that imports from U.S.A. were not very much reduced in 1932 if compared with 1931 and 1930, the rate of decrease being 1·1 per cent and 1·5 per cent respectively. But on the other hand the exports to U.S.A. diminished sensibly if compared with the preceding years. In fact the participation of the U.S.A. in the export trade which had attained 18·2 per cent in 1920–1924 decreased gradually till it reached 2·5 per cent in 1931. It recovered partially in 1932, the proportion being 5 per cent.

The diminution in the Egyptian exports to U.S.A. is chiefly due to the imposition of extremely high tariffs on agricultural products such as cotton and onions, as these two products constitute the major portion of Egyptian exports to U.S.A.

England.—This country succeeded Turkey in the primary position which the latter occupied in 1836 with regard to both imports and exports. Nevertheless since 1885 England has lost ground both relatively and absolutely in favour of countries such as Germany, Belgium, Italy, U.S.A., Japan and in general all those countries which in 1885 showed a relatively feeble industrial output.

Austria.—This country has lost ground relatively to other competitors for the same reason as England, namely in favour of the new industrial countries which have entered the world arena and also on account of the reduction in territory which it has suffered since 1836. In 1913 this country still held a considerable place in our import trade, coming before Germany and Italy, but after the former with regard to our export trade.

France.—The import trade from this country has been characterised by very considerable fluctuations since 1885 and has almost ceased since 1909.

With regard to its participation in our export trade we may say that this has not changed much.

Greece.—The place of this country in our export and import trade changed considerably between 1836 and 1885 for political reasons and has remained unaltered since 1885, as regards the export trade. On the other hand its part in our import trade has increased considerably since 1908 for the same reasons.

Italy.—This country or, more exactly, Tuscany, occupied in 1836 one of the first positions in our general trade, a position which it lost in consequence of its changing

fortunes. Nevertheless since its unification, and more particularly since 1890, Italy has almost continuously improved its position in our import trade, whereas it has purchased proportionally less from us compared with the year 1885.

Russia.—Our trade with Russia has appreciably diminished since 1885.

Roumania, Belgium and Japan.—The part played by these countries in our general trade has improved rapidly and considerably during the last 15 years.

Turkey.—One may say that Turkey is the only country which for reasons of external and internal politics has suffered a rapid diminution of its commercial relations with Egypt. In 1836 it held the first place in our import trade in which its participation was more than 23·9 per cent in 1836, 18·7 per cent in 1885, 9·8 per cent in 1913 and barely 1·7 per cent in 1932. With regard to export trade its participation was 32·7 per cent in 1836, 3·4 per cent in 1885, 2·1 per cent in 1913 and 0·1 per cent in 1932.

Germany.—There is no doubt that the trade of this country shows the most rapid and most constant increase of all. Its proportion of imports increased from 0·5 per cent in

1885 to 5·8 per cent in 1913 and that of its exports from 0 in 1885 to 12·8 per cent in 1913. Since the war, although this country has lost much ground, it is slowly recovering a preponderant position in our foreign trade.

IV.—The Development of Egyptian Trade and its Principal Factors.

We will now summarise the progress of Egyptian trade which we have indicated above :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
	L.E.	L.E.	L.E.
1836	2,685,000	2,115,000	4,800,000
1880	8,692,000	13,178,000	21,870,000
1900–1904	21,501,000	20,612,000	42,113,000
1910–1914	33,920,000	37,407,000	71,327,000
1920–1924	60,234,000	59,030,000	119,264,000
1925–1929	53,872,000	51,577,000	105,449,000
1932	27,426,000	26,987,000	54,413,000

These enormous figures for an exclusively agricultural country have been realised entirely by the increase of the agricultural production as shown by the following statistics concerning the areas under cultivation :—

Year	Area Cultivated
	Feddans (1)
1836	3,856,000
1880	4,716,000
1900	5,231,000
1910	5,345,000
1920	5,305,000
1930	5,549,000

(1) One feddan = 1·038 acres.

The increase in production together with its increased value has resulted in a growth of the national wealth which is shown by the figures of the national budget and those

of the population, for neither the one nor the other could have increased in the proportions indicated without an increase in the national wealth.

Years	Population	State Budget	
		Revenue	Expenditure
		L.E.	L.E.
1836	3,700,000	2,414,000	1,921,000
1850	4,690,000	9,585,000	7,691,000
1885	7,332,000	14,329,000	13,929,000
1900	10,176,000	11,867,000	10,840,000
1910	11,708,000	16,338,000	16,948,000
1920	13,216,000	46,451,000	62,051,000
1930	14,632,000	38,588,000	41,223,000

It is clear that the general progress summarised by the above figures is equally noticeable both before and after the change of Administration and in many cases much more noticeable in the latter period than in that which preceded it.

Whilst it is true that the period previous to 1880 and during the reigns of Mohammed Ali and Saïd Pasha was a period of intensive creation during which the foundations of contemporary Egypt was laid, it is not less true that the period from 1880 until the present was that during which these foundations were fully exploited.

This exploitation took place in a general way by the introduction and improvement of all those institutions capable of inspiring, both at home and abroad, full confidence in the administration of the country and of ensuring the free development of individual initiative.

With regard to trade this exploitation has been due to the following institutions and measures :—

(1) Legislation.

(2) Organisation of credit.

(3) Development of production.

(4) Development of public education.

(5) Improvement of transport.

(6) Centralisation of markets.

(7) Publicity.

(8) Association.

To these measures and institutions the miracle is due which we have illustrated in the preceding pages and it is to these and to these only and to their development that a further continuation of this miracle is possible.

Egypt, which is incomparably more fertile and more populous than the surrounding regions, Sudan, Yemen, Tripoli and Darfur, must necessarily thereby undertake the task to which it is destined by nature. Egypt has lately been, or certainly will be soon, connected by railway to Central Africa, overflowing with wealth, to Palestine, Persia, India, Tripoli, Algeria and Tunis and will be traversed in the future in every sense by an unparalleled flow of traffic. It is preparing to facilitate this process and to gain therefrom the utmost possible advantage.

Egypt has not been able to recover from the unprecedented depression through which the world is passing. Meanwhile, thanks to the farseeing sagacity of those who control its destinies, to the fertility of its soil and to the intelligence and energy of its people, the effects have been mitigated. Egypt may hope for a happy future and for a return of normal conditions. In actual fact more than any other country it is destined to benefit first by the coming era of prosperity.

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