

BRITISH RULE TRANSFORMS FACE OF EGYPT

Reformation of the Country's Affairs Generally is One of the Greatest Glories of British Rule in Any Part of the World

Egypt is now a British Protectorate. To that effect notice has been issued by the British Foreign Secretary, and all who have anything to do with Egypt are expected to govern themselves accordingly. The change is really little more than one of terms. Egypt's future had long been determined by British policy. In fact, if not in form, the country was already permanently under British control.

The one thing previously lacking to British rule in Egypt was a title. That the proclamation now provides. Until it was issued Britain treated Egypt technically as not one of her possessions, but somewhat as a country in the hands of a receiver might be treated.

Egypt's Status.

Egypt was previously regarded as nominally tributary to the Sultan of Turkey, and the hereditary line of Khedives established by the forceful Mehmet Ali in 1841 was recognized by Britain. But under British occupation, which began after Walseley's suppression of Arabi Pasha's rising in 1882, Egypt has been administered, protected and fostered along the characteristic line of British Imperial policy. Under soldiers like

Kitchener and statesmen like Cromer, that exhausted and much-decayed dependency of Turkey was nursed into a state of economic health and general progress that no one could have thought possible a generation ago.

Glory of British Rule.

The transformation in Egypt is one of the glories of British rule. The Sudan, a vast region long dominated by fanatical warrior tribes who were a constant source of trouble to upper Egypt, has been converted into the seat of a settled and prosperous people, to the aid of whose production have been brought the advantages of modern science. The Nile, which throughout the ages was regarded as the particular providence of Egypt, has been made a still more potent and benign influence by the engineering skill which created the irrigating system of dams, barrages and locks of which the Assouan dam is the head. The cultivation of cotton has been wonderfully successful. The lot of the fellahen has been raised far above that of the last generation of them.

Great Blessing.

Truly, British rule has been a blessing to Egypt. To Britain herself the occupation has been a great care, and has doubtless been a benefit. It was entered upon against her will, it was continued despite repeated efforts on her part to withdraw from it, and finally it settled down into a case of "What have we'll hold." Had British rule not been established in India it is improbable that it would have become established in Egypt. The state of affairs into which Egypt's finances had been brought by the spendthrift Ismail Pasha in 1876 led to the appointing of a British and a French Controller-General of Finance. It was as British Controller-General that Baring, now Lord Cromer, be-



gan his long service in Egypt in 1877. Very possibly even the financial interests of British and French investors might not have led to the constituting of these offices had not France had her empire in Northern Africa to consider and Britain her interests in India. The British Government was able to buy from the improvident Khedive 176,000 of the total 400,000 shares in the Suez Canal Company. The price paid was £4,000,000. The shares then purchased are now valued at £39,000,000 or about \$195,000,000.

Freced Britain's Hand.

Notwithstanding this proprietorship in the canal and the immense importance of that waterway as a link in the route to India, Britain would not have interfered in Egypt's affairs in 1882 if Gambetta had been less forceful and less clever. But just when he had overcome the British Government's scruples and had got it entangled in the situation he resigned office. De Freycy, who succeeded him, completely changed the French Government's policy towards Egypt. He was afraid that if France were to venture into any military enterprise in that corner of Africa she might again be attacked by Germany. Bismarck, still in the ascendant at Berlin, was not above taking advantage of diverted attention on the part of the power he had crushed twelve years before, whose speedy recovery was disquieting to him. At that time France and Britain were excellent friends. But the occupation of Egypt by Britain was the beginning of estrangement. France often protested against the continuance of the British occupation, and kept urging

Britain to withdraw. The relations between the two powers were brought to the verge of war when Lord Kitchener met the French officer, Marchand, at Fashoda, which the latter held to be within France's African sphere of influence. Happily, the controversy passed over without war.

Settled the Trouble.

The treaties of 1904 for the settling of colonial differences between Britain and France wiped this Egyptian and Sudan score off the slate along with many others. That was the beginning of the entente. Another of the questions settled by that treaty-making, with which the name of Edward VII. will always be honorably associated, was as to France's sphere of influence in Morocco. Britain practically conveyed her interest there to France. When in after years Germany challenged the Morocco arrangement and sought to make it an occasion of quarrel with France, Britain stood by France, and in two crises over that question prevented war. Her action was made use of by the Kaiser and his war caste to stir up the enthusiasm of the German people for the "big navy" required for "the day" Germany should attack Britain.



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Officer of First Wiltshire Regiment Tells of Part His Men Played in the Furious Fighting in the Trenches Near La Bassee

THE heroic part played in the war by both battalions of the Wiltshire Regiment is revealed by letters from officers and inquiries at the depot at Devizes.

An officer of the First Wiltshire writes: "We got it very badly when we were near La Bassee, where we had terrible knocking about. We did eighteen days continuous fighting. It took us weeks to advance four miles; and then the Germans were heavily reinforced, so we were pushed back a mile or so, and there we held on."

"The Germans got into some trenches which had been evacuated. After some tremendous shelling in front of Neuve Capelle they fired on the Wiltshires at a distance of 200 yards. Twice the Wiltshires had to take adjacent trenches. Next day the Germans got right in behind Stoddart's company. Our people had to hook it and were badly cut up. Stoddart was killed, several others were wounded, and a small commando captured, including some officers and about 150 men. Those eighteen days cost the Wiltshire's sixteen officers and nearly five hundred men."

Another officer writes as to the 2nd Wiltshires, and the details of how they were cut up so badly are beginning to be known. It appears that the Seventh Division were trying to hold a front of something like seven miles, and the Germans drove through them in several places. The division had to retire to three successive positions, and during one of the retirements the battalion was surrounded and cut up. Every single officer was either killed, wounded or captured, and only a hundred men are now left.

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St. John's Municipal Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

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By order,
JNO. L. SLATTERY,
Secretary-Treasurer.

dec22,14

NOTICE.

BUSINESS CHANGE

The partnership heretofore existing between Mr. R. W. Jeans and myself under the name of the "UNIVERSAL AGENCIES" has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

All amounts due "The Universal Agencies" to this date are payable to me, and all amounts owed by "The Universal Agencies" to this date will be paid by me, provided accounts of same are rendered to me in writing not later than January 15th, 1915.

My business for the future will be conducted in my own name, and I will be responsible from this date only for accounts contracted in my own name.

I will retain many excellent agencies, notably, amongst others, those of the De Reszke Cigarettes, Canadian Casualty and Boiler Insurance Co.; Acadia Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.; Patterson's Candy; Peerless Carbon and Ribbon Manufg. Co., and the Thomas D. Murphy Calendar Co.

I respectfully ask the trade for a continuance of the kind patronage accorded me in the past.

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Telephone 60.

dec28,14

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Orig. price \$1.50. Sale price \$1.25.
Orig. price \$2.70. Sale price \$2.10.

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