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More Troubles Develop In the Near East.

It is quite certain that all is not s well as it might be in Syria. True, Mr. Lloyd George announced in the British House of Commons, a short time ago, that the tension in that country had "sensibly relaxed." Nevertheless, there can be no doubt Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the recent clash between the French and the Arabs at Baalbek, on the kind of no man's land which now exists between the French "sphere of influence" and the Arab kingdom" was a very symptomatic engagement. The fact of the matter is that the Arabs, headed by the able Emil Feisul, are quite unable to see the relevancy of "traditional policies," where the future of Syria is concerned, or the cogency of the time-honored doctrine of "compensations," as enunciated by European diplomacy. They are, as a consequence, entirely opposed to the idea of allowing such considerations to influence the delimitation of their new state. The Sykes-Picot agreement, secured by France from Great Britain at a time of considerable stress, state. The Sykes-Picot agreement, secured by France from Great Britain at a time of considerable stress, namely, in 1916, may declare that the Syrian coast, from Tyre to Alexandretta, Cilicia, and most of Southern Armenia, from Sivas to Diarbekir, is to become "French." The Arabs, however, do not see the necessity. The Emir Feisul, their spokesman, indeed, made it quite clear, in the course of a conversation with a representative of the press, some time ago, that, with all due respect to the agreements which had been made over the heads of the Arabs, he did not intend to recognize them, or to appeal to them, even where favorable to the Arab cause. "I do not take my stand," he said on that occasion, "on what is called the Sykes-Picot agreement, nor any other secret agreement that may exist. I take my stand on that fundamental right of nations to freedom for which the whole war was fought, and which has been acknowledged by President Wilson and all the leading allied statesmen."

It is this, of course, that is causing all the tension. The Syrian question, like the whole of the Near Eastern question, is still an open question. The borders of the new Arab

tion, like the whole of the Near Eastern question, is still an open question. The borders of the new Arab
kingdom have not yet been delimited,
and France's "special" position in
Syria has not yet been finally upheld. France, however, is certainly
acting as if there were no doubt
whatever about it. Gen. Gouraud, the
French High Commissioner in Syria
and commander-in-chief of the army
in the Levant, is applying himself to in the Levant, is applying himself to his task with zeal. There is nothing temporary about his policies. His reforms and enterprises go to the root of things. To-day, he contemplates the introduction of French currency; to-morrow he undertakes the completion of the German harbor works at tion of the German harbor works at Alexandretta. He receives deputa-tions from all manner of "leading people"; makes patriotic speeches; listens to patriotic speeches, and al-ludes, as a matter of course, to the fudes, as a matter of course, to the "French protectorate over Syria." It is quite in vain that the Arab press at Beirut, for 'instance, points out that article XXII of the covenant of the League of Nations provides that the Syrian people shall be independent, with no reservations save that they shall choose a mandatory power to assist them for a period of cooperation and support. Gen Gouraud is quite evidently satisfied that he is quite evidently satisfied that he has come to stay, and is determined to see if he cannot achieve for himself, in Syria, a name similar to that which Gen. Lyautey achieved in Moraccae.

Morocco, however, is not Syria.
"The Arabs will fight the French,"
said the Emir Feisul in the interview
already referred to, "if the French, in any way, interfere with our claims to independence." Those who know the part which the Arab armies played in the war in the Middle East recognize that this is no idle threat. Mr. Lloyd George may be right. "Tension" may have "sensibly relaxed," but tension will prever be original discounted. sion" may have "sensibly relaxed," but tension will never be entirely dissipated until it is made perfectly clear to the Arab peoples, and other peoples concerned, that they are not to be sacrificed to the so-called exigencies of diplomacy.

Carlyle's Grit.

In 1835 there occurred on incident which would have deranged an ordi-In 1835 there occurred on incident which would have deranged an ordinany man. Thomas Carlyle was living at No. 5 Cheyne row, Chelsca, near London, says an exchange. He had not earned a penny, says he to himself, "by the craft of literature for twenty-three months." But with the push of a tiger he was ploughing his way through his "History of the French Revolution." The first volume was finished. It had taken him five months to write. He loaned the manuscript to John Stuart Mill. On a certain morning Mill called upon Carlyle, his face as white as ashes. After two hours of awkward fumbling Mill managed to tell it—he had left the priceless manuscript on a desk and the housemaid had taken it to light the morning fire in the grate! Carlyle was like a stricken man. But one day, as he sat humbly at his window, he saw cheery bricklayers building a house, brick by brick. He burst into tears and, sobbling like a child, he cried: "I, too, can bring back thought by thought!" He did. He recalled all of the manuscript and rewrote it. What forture!

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