

# NILE DESERT TO FLOWER THROUGH BRITISH IRRIGATION PROJECT

Undeterred by threats of revolt, Great Britain is planning vast irrigation work for her protectorate of Egypt which will double the present area of cultivation and enormously increase the prosperity of the people. More than three-fourths of the country is still desert, and it is proposed to regulate the waters of the Nile in upper Egypt so that a large area on both sides of the river shall be reclaimed. Irrigation is vital to Egypt, for without it there could be no crops and a general famine would result. This work will be the first great construction project to be launched since the war. An irrigation commission has been named to study the question on the White and Blue Nile and has already arrived on the ground. It consists of four engineering experts. Their work will carry them far south of the limits of the Egyptian Government's exclusive sphere into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, to Khartoum, where the waters of the White and the Blue Nile meet. The river has many alluvial deposits during its course, the longest of any waterway on the globe, next to the Mississippi. From its source in Lake Victoria to Lake Albert, about 200 miles, it is known as the Albert Nile; thence to Lake No. 400 miles, as the Bahir-el-Jebel. Then it becomes the White Nile to Khartoum, where the Nile proper begins. Above that point the principal affluent is the Sobat, south-west of Fasboda, while below Khartoum the Atbara is the only tributary. The Nile drains a basin of 1,107,227 square miles, a little less than the Mississippi and the Ohio, or the Congo, with 1,425,000 square miles, or the mighty Amazon, with 2,722,000 square miles, draining two-fifths of South America. Northwest of Lake Victoria the Nile and Congo have a common watershed divided only by small elevations. From the low hills of Darfur the Nile valley sharply contracts till it approaches within a few miles of the river at the third cataract, reaching its restricted width to the Mediterranean. Beyond the narrow strip is the waterless desert with only a few oases.

**5,000 Years of Endeavor.**  
This is the enemy that the irrigation commission has set out to conquer. Water alone will not do it, for as soon as the supply is withdrawn the land would again become dry and infertile. It is the rich loam brought down by the Nile from the luxuriant lake region and deposited over the sandy bottom that makes Egypt one of the most productive regions of the world in the restricted area of the delta, once the granary of the Roman empire. For 5,000 years the Egyptians have been trying to catch this alluvial deposit and as yet have only partially succeeded. Herodotus mentions their efforts at a very early period of history and he himself, about the year 490 B.C., made a journey up the river as far as the first cataract at Assuan, where the great dam, finished in 1902, has considerably obliterated the rapids. The

## MUST INCREASE PRICE OF FLOUR Result of Action of Wheat Board and Lack of Export Markets.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—A material advance in the price of flour in Canada is indicated in an announcement made here on behalf of Canadian millers by George A. Macdonald, representing the Quaker Oats Company, and head of a delegation of representative millers which waited on the Government to discuss the serious situation which Canadian millers are facing as a result of the action of the Canadian Wheat Board in continuing the restriction in the price of flour on the Canadian market, and the lack of export markets for Canadian flour. The increase will be necessary to meet the increasing cost of manufacture, it is understood. The scarcity of millfeeds in Canada is directly traceable to the lack of a market for flour and the consequent decrease in the volume of domestic milling, the millers state. They have asked the Government to modify the regulations of the Wheat

story of Joseph and his brethren in evidence of the conservation of grain in Egypt and the dependence of surrounding countries upon the land of the Nile for their supplies in times of dearth. Even in those early days there was an attempt to catch the alluvium of the Nile in Lake Moeris, south of Memphis, and above the head of the delta formed by the Rosetta and Damietta branches of the river. The annual rise of the river overflowed into the lake, and when the stream fell in the dry season the water poured back through the channel and was diverted by sluices to the ground to be irrigated. The lake has now shrunk in area and subsided more than 200 feet and its outflow ceased about 230 B.C., but the system of retaining the waters of the river in a basin which the surrounding country can receive an annual flooding has been continued to this day.

The greatest problem for the engineer is to catch as much as possible of the rich alluvium by preventing its escape to the sea and depositing it on dry fields. The slope of the land on each side of the Nile is away from the river, so that at flood it was easy to top it and let the mud charged water flow over the farms to a depth of about a yard. The mud was gradually deposited and after a month or six weeks the water, then almost dry, was run off into the falling river. The ground usually was roughly plowed in November and planted with grain that sprouted in April without other watering.

**Doubled Cotton Crops.**  
To prevent the loss of alluvial deposits a French engineer under M. M. Allet designed two bridges across the Rosetta and Damietta branches at the head of the delta so constructed that the arches could be closed by drop gates diverting the water to side canals. British engineers completed these structures in 1890 and the result was that the five-year average cotton crop, ending in 1884, amounting to 123,000 tons, was raised by 1895 to 251,200 tons. In 1900 there were about 2,100 miles of basin canals. A similar barrage was built across the river at Assuit, finished in 1902 in time to avert disaster from the Nile of that year. Extension of the area of cultivation made more and more demands upon the river, and it was realized that if the perennial system were to be continued the waters of the river would have to be stored up during flood time. This resulted in the great Assuan dam, finished December 10, 1902, which stores up the water, becoming full in March. As the demand for water increases, the sluices, by which it is pierced, are gradually opened until July, when the current is allowed to flow freely.

Thus the great river is harnessed to the uses of man from Assuan to the sea. It is now proposed to extend this work far to the south to make the deserts of the Sudan fertile for the years to come. This great work of construction foreshadows the development of the African continent to the benefit of the world at large.

Board and to co-operate with the millers in inducing foreign buyers to take a reasonable proportion of Canadian wheat as flour rather than as wheat. Vast quantities of flour are said to be available in the United States for export, and this complicates the Canadian problem. It is said that more than 4,000 men have already been thrown out of employment by forced closing down of the mills, of which there are about 500 in Canada.

**Irish Home Rule Passed Second Reading**  
A despatch from London says:—The Lloyd George Coalition Government scored its expected victory in the House of Commons when the new Irish Home Rule Bill passed its second reading, which is tantamount to its becoming law, by a vote of 345 to 94. The opposition votes were confined to the Nationalists, Laborites and ex-Premier Asquith's few followers. The division followed a speech by Premier Lloyd George.

## Markets of the World

**Breadstuffs.**  
Toronto, April 6.—Man. wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.30; No. 2 Northern, \$2.27; No. 3 Northern, \$2.23, in store Fort William.  
Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 98c; No. 3 C.W., 94c; extra No. 1 feed, 94c; No. 1 feed, 92c; No. 2 feed, 92c, in store Fort William.  
Manitoba barley—No. 3 C.W., \$1.64; No. 4 C.W., \$1.44; rejected, \$1.32; feed, \$1.52, in store Fort William.  
American corn—No. 3 yellow, \$1.93, nominal, track, Toronto; prompt shipment.  
Ontario oats—No. 3 white, \$1.03 to \$1.05, according to freight outside.  
Ontario wheat—No. 1 Winter, per car lot, \$2 to \$2.01; No. 2 do, \$1.98 to \$2.01; No. 3 do, \$1.92 to \$1.93, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freight.  
Ontario wheat—No. 1 Spring, per car lot, \$2.02 to \$2.03; No. 2 do, \$1.98 to \$2.07; No. 3 do, \$1.95 to \$2.01, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freight.  
Barley—Malt, \$1.78 to \$1.80, according to freight outside.  
Buckwheat—\$1.65 to \$1.70, according to freight outside.  
Rye—No. 3, \$1.83 to \$1.85, according to freight outside.  
Mills—No. 1—Government standard, \$13.25, Toronto.  
Ontario flour—Government standard, \$10.25 to \$10.45, Montreal or Toronto, in jute bags. Prompt shipment.  
Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freight, bags included—Bran, per ton, \$2.50; per ton, \$52; good feed flour, \$3.60 to \$3.75.  
Hay—No. 1, per ton, \$28 to \$30; mixed, per ton, \$26 to \$28, track.  
Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$16 to \$17, track, Toronto.  
**Country Produce—Wholesale.**  
Cheese—New, large, 29 to 30c; twins, 29 1/2 to 30c; triplets, 30 1/2 to 31c; Stillton, 33 to 34c; old, large, 31 to 32c; do, twins, 32 to 32 1/2c.  
Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 65 to 66c; creamery prints, 67 to 68c.  
Margarine—33 to 38c.  
Eggs—New laid, 55 to 56c.  
Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 40 to 42c; roasters, 25c; fowl, 35c; turkeys, 50 to 60c; ducklings, 38 to 40c; geese, 32 to 35c; squabs, doz., \$6.00.  
Live poultry—Spring chickens, 30 to 32c; fowls, 35 to 40c; ducks, 35 to 40c; geese, 26 to 28c.  
Beans—Canadian, hand-picked, bus., \$5.50 to \$5.75; primes, \$4 to \$4.50; Japans, \$5.25 to \$5.50; California Lima, 16 1/2 to 17 1/2c; Madagascar Lima, 16c; Japan Lima, 16c, 11c.  
Honey—Extracted clover, 5-lb. tins, 27 to 28c; 10-lb. tins, 25 to 26c; 60-lb. tins, 25c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 18 to 20c; comb, 16-oz., 36 to 36.50 doz.; 10-oz., \$4.25 to \$4.50 doz.  
Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$4.25; per 5 imp. gals., \$4.00.  
**Provisions—Wholesale.**  
Smoked meats—Hams, med., 38 to



SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES Newly appointed British Ambassador to the United States.

40c; do, heavy, 29 to 30c; cooked, 54 to 56c; rolls, 30 to 31c; breakfast bacon, 48 to 49c; backs, plain, 50 to 52c; boneless, 52 to 56c.  
Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 31 to 32c; clear bellies, 30 to 31c.  
Lard—Pure, tierces, 30 to 30 1/2c; prints, 30 1/2 to 31c; pails, 30 1/2 to 31 1/2c; tubs, 31 1/2 to 32c. Compound tierces, 28 1/2 to 29c; tubs, 29 to 29 1/2c; pails, 29 1/2 to 29 3/4c; prints, 30 to 30 1/2c.

**Montreal Markets.**  
Montreal, April 6.—Oats, Canadian Western, No. 2, \$1.16; Can. Western No. 3, \$1.10; Flour, new standard grade, \$18.25 to \$18.55; Rolled oats, bag, 90 lbs., \$5.60 to \$5.60. Bran, \$4.25. Shorts, \$6.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$30 to \$31. Cheese, finest eastern, 26 to 26 1/2. Butter, choicest creamery, 64 to 65c. Eggs, fresh, 55c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, \$4.30 to \$4.40. Lard, pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 30 to 30 1/2c.

**Live Stock Markets.**  
Toronto, April 6.—Choice heavy steers, \$13.25 to \$14; do, good, \$12.50 to \$13; butchers' cattle, choice, \$12.50 to \$13; do, good, \$10.75 to \$11; do, med., \$10 to \$10.50; do, com., \$8.50 to \$9.25; bulls, choice, \$10.25 to \$11; do, med., \$9 to \$9.50; do, rough, \$7.50 to \$8; butcher cows, choice, \$10.15 to \$11; do, good, \$9 to \$9.50; do, com., 8 to 9; do, stockers, \$9 to \$11; feeders, \$11 to \$12.50; canners and cutters, \$5.25 to \$6; milkers, good to choice, \$100 to \$160; do, com. and med., \$65 to \$75; springers, \$90 to \$100; lambs, per cwt., \$15 to \$19; spring lambs, each, \$14 to \$19; calves, good to choice, \$18 to \$22.50; sheep, \$7 to \$14; hogs, fed and watered, \$18.75; do, weighed off cars, \$19; do,

## A Letter From London

The outbreak of influenza, which caused the postponement of the departure of the Prince of Wales for Australia has had the effect of producing an interesting coincidence. The date of his departure from Portsmouth was the nineteenth anniversary of the sailing of his parents on the Ophir for their memorable tour of the Dominions. Their majesties were then the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, for the visit took place shortly after the death of Queen Victoria, and King Edward had not then given the title of Prince of Wales to his son. The Duke opened the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia while he was away, and upon his return the Prince, as he had then become, delivered his famous "Wake Up England" speech at the Guildhall.

Just before the Prince sailed he was formally summoned to the Privy Council by the King, though in the case of a member of the Royal Family no formal swearing-in ceremony takes place. This step would have been taken some time ago, had it not been for the war, and the Prince became a member of this Council at a rather more advanced age than has been customary in the case of the Sovereign's sons in the past.

So far no woman has ever been admitted to the Privy Council, though how long it will remain a masculine preserve is very problematical, since in the event of a woman M.P. becoming a Cabinet Minister she would presumably be sworn of the Privy Council.

Up to the present King George has been able to say that he has travelled more miles throughout the world than any other living Royal personage. But this record His Majesty is certain to lose within the next eighteen months, since, extensive as the King's tours have been, they will by that time have been eclipsed by the Prince of Wales.

The Prince, by the way, will be the first member of our Royal family to set foot on the West Indian Islands as a formal visitor, and his welcome is, in consequence, likely to be more than ordinarily enthusiastic. As it may now be taken for granted that the King's globe-trotting is at an end, and since at least two other visits for the Prince of Wales are projected, he is likely to set up a mileage record that will remain unbeaten for many a day.

Prince Arthur of Connaught was to have held an investiture on behalf of

## RUINOUS FOOD PRICES IN RUSSIA

### Long Lines of Citizens Waiting For Daily Rations.

A despatch from London says:—An indication of conditions obtaining in Bolshevik Russia as the League of Nations investigating committee will find them was contained in a review of the economic situation in the territory controlled by the Soviet just printed in the London Times. The article, which was written by a staff correspondent, depicts long lines awaiting their food rations, with bread selling at 450 rubles a pound and butter at 3,200 rubles a pound; of queues with the dead of the various cities, for even the cemeteries are "nationalized" and the dead lie for days awaiting interment.

"Prices are very high, but the profits are low," is the writer of the article says. These, for example, are some of the prices prevailing last week:

	Rubles.
Bread, per pound	450
Flour, per pound	800 to 700
Beef	850 to 600
Pork	720
Salt	800
Butter	3,200 to 2,000
Grains and meal	600 to 200

Normally the ruble is worth 6 1/2 cents, gold now it is worth about 4 1/2 cents. "In spite of these charges salaries are comparatively low, a typist getting 2,000 rubles a month for an eight-hour day without rations. A hospital nurse gets 2,000 rubles a month and army rations for a twelve-hour day. Army rations in Petrograd consist of: 1/2 lb. horseflesh, 1/2 lb. bread (fair quality), 1/4 lb. (about) groats and small quantities of sugar and fats daily. "Bread on civilian rations contains about 50 per cent of beans and 10 1/2 per cent bird seed (millet, canary and hemp), the rest being rye flour. "Under the system of the division of the population into categories, a person receiving rations on card A (the highest rate for heavy manual labor) gets 1 1/2 pounds of such bread daily; sugar, horse meat and groats are doled out in small quantities at intervals.

"The working population—that is, every one except school children and persons over 60—work under truly terrible conditions, and the workshops are cold. There is also very little light, and no soap or washing facilities. "It is proposed to reopen the schools in the spring. They have been closed since October, owing to the fuel shortage. Free dining rooms for the pupils have been continued throughout the winter, but the food offered there is of such bad quality that even the dogs refuse to touch it except when starving. This state of things in the school dining rooms is on a par with other Soviet "reforms" where word and deed are so diametrically opposed.

"The closing of the markets in these conditions means a terrible hardship for the population. It is not surprising that the very rumor raised such a storm of protest that the authorities have not yet risked enforcing the order. Only one market, indeed, has been closed, other markets being subjected only to perfunctory raids. At the closing of the Alexandrovsky market, which may be described as the Caledonian market of Petrograd, a free fight took place between troops and traders, when about twenty were killed and wounded."

**Upper Canada College Endowment Fund.**  
Upper Canada College, the oldest and most historic school in Ontario, has launched an Endowment and Extension Campaign for \$1,500,000. It is proposed that \$600,000 shall be an Endowment, the interest of which shall be used to raise the salaries of the masters and to found a pension fund; \$400,000 as an endowment for the provision of forty entrance scholarships, each of the value of \$500, tenable for three years; and \$500,000 for improvements and additions to the present buildings. All the residential schools have been forced to raise their fees to meet the H. C. L., but the winner of one of these entrance scholarships should be able to live at Upper Canada College at an expense no greater than it would cost his parents to keep him at home. Upper Canada College has at present about 450 boys, drawn from every province in the Dominion, with the exception of P.E.I. It has about 4,500 "Old Boys" living, and though usually spoken of as a Toronto School, counts among its "Old Boys" the Minister of Agriculture in the Meard and in the Drury Government.

**Hoover in Ring for President.**  
A despatch from San Francisco says:—Herbert Hoover telegraphed the Hoover Republican Club of California that he would accept the Republican nomination for President. And He Got the One.  
A traveller, whose train had stopped at a town famous for its buns, beckoned to a small boy on the platform, and, giving him ten cents, told the little fellow to bring him a bun and buy one for himself with the other nickel. The boy soon returned, calmly eating a bun, he handed five cents to the astonished traveller, remarking: "There was only one left, boss."

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

