

been—apart from the trouble on the Western Frontier, which was the natural sequel of the conquest of Darfur—the inevitable accompaniment of administration in this and, I imagine, every other country where control is exercised over savage tribes. It has taken place almost entirely in outlying districts, where government is mainly in its initial stages. The attitude of the whole of the central and northern part of the Sudan—the part which contains the more civilised and thinking population, and where public opinion of a kind tends to be formed—has been not merely one of acquiescence in the supremacy of the Government, but of active sympathy and good will.

PART III.

The direct military contribution made by the Egyptian Army to the British forces in the Near East has been dealt with by Your Excellency in the report I have quoted above.

The following is a brief account of the additional detachments sent and services rendered.

In 1917, a Squadron of Cavalry, a Sapper Company, and three battalions of Infantry were placed at the disposal of the General Officer Commanding, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and have since July in that year been employed in Palestine and on the lines of communication. Other details have been lent for duty with the Air Force, for ammunition depôts and railway construction.

In 1918 an Egyptian Army Transport Corps was raised for duty with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, with the following establishment:—

- 2 British officers,
- 42 Egyptian officers.
- 2 Translators.
- 4008 N.C.O.'s and men.

The Stores Department of the Army has issued to units of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force saddlery, clothing and equipment of all descriptions to the value of some £120,000.

Barracks, hospitals and other Egyptian Army buildings in Cairo and Alexandria have been placed at the disposal of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

The Sudan Government railways supplied three engines and 50 trucks for use on the railways in Palestine at the time of General Allenby's advance on Jerusalem. This small item was a considerable sacrifice, as the railway rolling stock was very severely taxed at the time to carry the enormously increased exports.

In December, 1916, instructions were received from the Foreign Office to increase the production of wheat and other food grains in the Sudan. At the same time the Commander-in-Chief in Egypt sent an urgent request for food supplies, as owing to the limited amount of shipping available he was compelled to draw to the utmost on local resources. Every effort was therefore made to develop the country's productive capacity as quickly as possible.

Food supplies in the Sudan were placed under the control of a Resources Board, and the direction of exports was undertaken by the Licensing Officer appointed in connection with War Trade Regulations.

There is no need to describe the various measures taken in the last two years to give effect to this policy. It has to be remembered that in the Sudan the cultivation is spread in patches over thousands of miles of sparsely inhabited country, ill-provided with transport,

and that cattle and sheep are pastured by nomadic tribes over wide stretches of territory. It is, in consequence, extremely difficult to get into touch at short notice with supplies and to develop and control output.

In view also of the pressing external demands for produce, it has been a primary consideration to retain a sufficient food reserve within the country, and it has been a matter of some anxiety to strike a mean between the desire to contribute a maximum of assistance to the Army and Egypt and the necessity of protecting home food reserves.

The net result has been that during the last two years the Sudan has supplied to Egypt and the British Forces:—

- 169,000 tons of food grains.
- 61,000 cattle.
- 318,000 sheep.

The value of these was, approximately, £3,595,000. Roughly speaking, the Sudan has doubled the quantity of its usual output of food products during the last two years. For purposes of comparison I may mention the export of millet. Before the war the maximum export in any one year was 32,000 tons, whereas the quantities allowed to leave the Sudan in the years 1915-1918 have been respectively 46,000, 57,000, 85,000, and 54,000 tons.

Of the quantities mentioned above the British forces in Egypt have received the following, of the approximate value of £1,215,000:—

- 75,000 tons of food grains, etc.
- 8,000 cattle.
- 161,000 sheep.

As regards increase in production, some 10,000 acres were added to the area under wheat in 1916-1917, and a further 11,000 acres in 1917-1918.

With the aid of funds generously advanced by Egypt various irrigation schemes for wheat production were started in 1917, but delay in shipment of machinery has hindered their progress. Most of the areas will, however, be under cultivation this year. By means of the same funds extra Egyptian staff were obtained to develop the output of cattle and sheep.

The export of camels for the use of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force has in three years reached the figure of 16,625, a number which was large enough to react unfavourably on the internal transport of food grains. In the past year also over 3,000 donkeys have been supplied to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

I may also mention that in 1917 and 1918 about 26,000 tons of grain have been spared to supplement a shortage which was causing anxiety in Arabia and the Italian colony of Eritrea.

The measures (briefly alluded to above) which were taken to organise these resources to the best advantage have not only been cheerfully agreed to, but have been most actively backed by the leading natives, and I should like here to record my appreciation of the unflinching loyalty and good will with which the chiefs and sheikhs have responded to every appeal. Without their co-operation it would have been impossible to provide the numbers of camels and donkeys which were sent North for the use of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, nor the unprecedented export of cattle and sheep and foodstuffs to Egypt. Moreover, the most generous contributions have