

been made by all communities and classes to the Prince of Wales's Fund and the Red Cross Funds of Great Britain and France. The help and support thus rendered to us are, to my mind, evidence of a genuine feeling of friendship and liking for the Government that has administered the country for the past twenty years. It may be too soon to talk of the growth of a national idea among the tribes of the Sudan, in past years disintegrated and often mutually hostile—though I think the germ of such an idea may be detected—but I am convinced that the four years of war have wakened a consciousness of the Empire which did not exist before, and which may, I trust, in coming years develop into a spirit of citizenship.

The credit for what may be regarded as a very satisfactory situation belongs, in the first place, to the sound system of administration, based upon personal intercourse and contact with the inhabitants, which was built up from the beginning of our occupation. But high praise is due to the present staff of officers and officials who have patiently and cheerfully carried out their military or civil duties during the war. Their situation has been one which, I think, calls for sympathy. From the beginning of the war it has been the keenest wish of every Englishman in the country to take a more direct share in the conflict with Germany than has in appearance been offered by the humdrum life of civil and military routine. This is specially the case with the Officers, Warrant and Non-commissioned Officers attached to the Egyptian Army, who, by the accident of their positions at the outbreak of war, have been debarred from employing their skill and experience in the profession for which they have been trained, and accompanying their units on active service. Enough, however, has been said above to make it clear that the efficiency of both military and civil work here would have been disastrously impaired if officers had been allowed to return to the British Army as freely as they wished. This decision was intimated to them early in the war, and has been loyally accepted.

The civil officials, like their military col-

leagues, have been prevented from offering their services to the Army. And I would say here that I do not see how any course could have been adopted by the Government other than to refuse at the outset all resignations. Had resignations been permitted freely the country would not have been left with a single British official of military age and fitness. As it was, the release of those whom, owing to special circumstances, it was impossible to retain has thrown a strain upon the remainder which, accentuated by an inevitable curtailment of leave, has been the cause for some anxiety. I am glad to have this opportunity of recording my appreciation of their services.

In addition, I wish to express my sense of obligation to the whole personnel, both military and civil, for the loyal support they have always accorded to me. In circumstances which have been often adverse and difficult, they have never failed to give their best work in a most cheerful and ungrudging spirit.

Finally, I cannot close this despatch without a reference to the loss the Sudan Government sustained in 1917 when Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., decided to accept the post of Senior Judicial Officer in the new Administration in Mesopotamia. Mr. Bonham Carter's services are too well known to Your Excellency to require commendation from me, but I should like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his unfailing support and sympathy and most helpful advice, not only in matters concerning his own Department, but in all the problems which confronted the Government during an anxious and difficult time.

I am sending Your Excellency under separate cover a list of the names of those who have rendered valuable services in both military and civil capacities during the war.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant.

(Signed) LEE STACK,

Major-General.

A./Sirdar and Governor-General
of the Sudan.

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