

bers of the population were in danger of starvation; commerce and industry had been disorganised by the war; and the complications of the currency question owing to the depreciation of Turkish money, especially Turkish notes, were very considerable. The Turks had, of course, collected the bulk of the taxes due for the current year in all the newly occupied areas; and it was not only impolitic but impracticable to attempt to collect any that might be outstanding there. I had, therefore, to accept the fact that these areas, must, for a time, be entirely dependent on Army funds; and that I must allot to each Chief Administrator a grant-in-aid, limited to what was absolutely necessary in order to continue administration.

I have not attempted to fix tariff rates for Turkish currency except in so far as the transactions of the Army and of the Military Administrations were concerned. In respect of these, it was necessary to fix rates on the basis of intrinsic value in order to protect public funds against loss. In the case of currency circulating among the inhabitants, I have not interfered with the exchange values fixed by the inhabitants for transactions amongst themselves. The situation as regards currency is still very difficult, and must remain so until the matter has been dealt with effectively by the Allied Powers.

12. The relief and repatriation of the large number of refugees of all nationalities has been a question of great difficulty; and it was found necessary to establish a Directorate to deal with the work. The duties of this Directorate are to co-ordinate, under the direct supervision of General Headquarters, the work of relief and repatriation in all areas, and for that purpose to maintain close touch with all such relief organisations as—

The American Red Cross.

The American Relief Commission for the Near East.

The Armenian-Syrian Relief Fund.

The Lord Mayor's (London) Fund.

The Union Nationale Armenienne.

The Syrian and Palestine Relief Commission.

The Palestine Zionist Committee.

Care is, of course, taken not to interfere in any way with the field of action of any Society in regard to the distribution of private funds or material resources. The Directorate is also responsible for the collection of all information regarding the number, location and circumstances of refugees; for the distribution of relief funds and the provision of food, clothing, medical assistance and transport, for the actual employment of refugees, where this is possible; and for the supervision of relief camps.

13. The task of maintaining order in Palestine and Syria during the period under review has been a delicate one. Though the attitude of the population towards the Allied Forces, who delivered them from Turkish domination, has been on the whole genuinely friendly, there are in these countries religious and racial differences between various sections of the population ready to blaze out at the least provocation. The state of tense expectation as to the political future of the country increases such feeling. All along the eastern borders are large numbers of Bedouin, supplied with arms and ammunition in greater quantities than ever before, who have never been subject to any but the most nominal control. They, too, are waiting to take advantage of any in-

ternal disorder as an opportunity for raids and plunder.

The only serious disturbance which has occurred was at Aleppo on February 22nd, when an anti-Armenian riot suddenly broke out. Prompt measures were taken by the troops to prevent it spreading, but about 40 Armenians were killed and 70 or 80 injured before order was restored. The outbreak appears to have been mainly a result of exaggerated reports of events in Cilicia causing a feeling of animosity against Armenians, which was probably skilfully fanned by C.U.P. Agents.

The rioters were punished and the town was made responsible for the payment of indemnities to the sufferers by the riot.

Formation of Army of Occupation.

14. By the end of 1918 I had moved to Egypt the Headquarters XXth Corps with the 10th, 53rd, 54th, 60th and 75th Divisions.

It was decided that the British forces in Palestine, Syria and Egypt, during the period of military occupation pending the decision of the Peace Conference with regard to Syria and Palestine, should consist of three Indian Divisions, two Indian Cavalry Divisions and a British Infantry Brigade, disposed as follows:—

Desert Mounted Corps (4th and 5th Cavalry Divisions) and 3rd and 7th Indian Divisions in Syria and Palestine.

One British Brigade in Egypt.

75th Division in Kantara area as a general reserve.

The necessary reorganisation of this force and the demobilisation of the other formations of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force was proceeding, when the outbreak in Egypt occurred and changed the situation, necessitating the reformation of two more Divisions for the garrison of Egypt.

Part II.—General review of the Campaign.

14. The campaigns in Sinai, Palestine and Syria formed an important part of the general Allied effort against the Central Powers; and I propose to give here a brief summary of their relation to the operations in the main theatre on the Western Front, of their general features and results.

The forces employed in this theatre may be regarded in the nature of a detachment from the main forces on the Western Front; but engaged in the same great battle, changing its rôle and action according to the sway of events in the main theatre and the other minor theatres.

In the first instance, the object of this detachment was the protection of Egypt and the Suez Canal, a vital link in the communications of the Allies. By the summer of 1917, when I assumed command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Lieut.-General Sir A. Murray's brilliant campaign in Sinai had removed the danger to Egypt, and had forced the enemy back across his own frontiers.

The original purpose of the detachment had been accomplished. But events elsewhere had given a fresh importance and another rôle to the operations in this theatre. The collapse of Russia had given a new lease of life to the Central Powers' weakest member, and had freed the main Turkish forces for action elsewhere. It was believed that they would be used in an offensive, planned and organised by