

VOL. IV. No. 8.

APRIL, 1930.

THE SYRIAN WORLD

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE IN ENGLISH DEALING
WITH SYRIAN AFFAIRS AND ARABIC LITERATURE



AN INTERVIEW WITH EL-ATASSI

SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL

IMAGINARY SPEECH TO THE SENATE

REV. W. A. MANSUR

THE RETURN HOME (*SHORT STORY*)

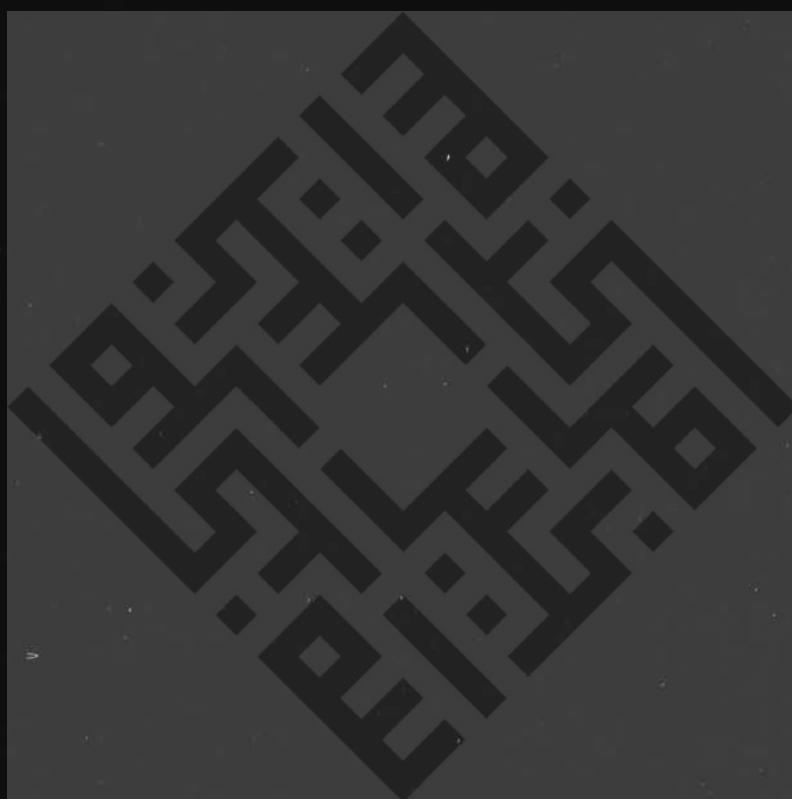
LOUIS MARON

FROM BEIRUT TO THE PALESTINE BORDER

SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

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THE SYRIAN WORLD

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LAST CALL
 TO THE
 GREAT SYRIAN WORLD CONTEST
 FOR A
 FREE TRIP TO SYRIA

IN THIS ISSUE

REV. W. A. MANSUR has ever in his writings the element of inspiration. No doubt our readers are glad that he writes so frequently on the different phases of the transitional period we are now going through in America. It is a period fraught with the gravest consequences if not dealt with in the proper manner. Rev. Mansur is contributing considerably towards the creation of that proper consciousness that will materially enhance the Syrians' evaluation of their sterling racial qualities. This in turn will react to a satisfactory adjustment of the transition problem. In his present contribution he has a Syrian character deliver an imaginary speech to the United States Senate apropos of some derogatory remarks made against the Syrians in that body. We have no doubt that our readers will share with the learned clergyman the spirit that prompted him to write it. In truth, it is more real than imaginary. And as proof of the intense degree of his sincerity we quote the following from his covering letter: *"Nothing that I have written have I cared more to present to the readers of THE SYRIAN WORLD than this speech*

in defense of my people. I send it with my prayers that my blessed Master and Saviour may bless it to those who read it." * * * The account of the editor's interview with Hashem Bey El-Atassi, Syrian Nationalist leader, should prove timely and enlightening at the present critical stage of Syria's relations with France. * * * The editor's travel article in this issue covers his journey from Beirut to the Palestine border, passing through sections of Shouf to Sidon and Jedaidat Marjioun. The latter is a model Lebanese town abounding in matters of interest. * * * The short story in this issue is written by a college student who conceals his or her identity behind a nom de plume. Perhaps the author will be induced to reveal himself or herself upon ascertaining the public's appreciation of the touching story. * * * Our poetical contributions in this issue are not only numerous but of extremely high quality, and all by Syrian-American talent. Many of the poets are already known to our readers, the only new one being Jonard Egis, which is a nom de plume.

Great Syrian

For a FREE TRIP to

The editor of THE SYRIAN WORLD having made a trip to Syria in the summer of 1929, which he is now describing in a series of articles in the magazine, came to realize not only the great educational and cultural advantages of such a trip, but its unrivalled possibilities for pleasure and recreation. In our enthusiasm for the benefits of such tours, we decided to offer one as a prize to our readers. This is on a par with the most liberal offers made by the biggest American publications, whose readers are hundreds of thousands and even millions. Needless to say that this is unprecedented in the history of Arabic journalism, whether in America or abroad.

THE SYRIAN WORLD, in making the great prize offer in spite of the heavy sacrifice involved, considers that in so doing it is promoting the cause of sympathetic understanding of the motherland. This is in keeping with the main object behind the publication of the magazine. Whether the winner be a boy or girl, American or Syrian, the purpose would have been served by the actual contacts established with the great scenic beauties and places of immense historical interest in our country of origin.

The proposition is unprecedented, the advantages great, the conditions most liberal. It is surely the opportunity of a lifetime for the ambitious.

ITINERARY OF TRIP

The free trip offered by THE SYRIAN WORLD takes the same route followed by the editor in his recent trip to Syria. Passage will be Cabin class on the luxurious steamer Providence, of the Fabre Line, sailing from New York July 2nd. Stops on route and shore excursions will be made at Ponta Delgada, Azores Islands; Lisbon, Portugal; Naples, Italy; Palermo, Sicily, and Piraeus and Athens, Greece.

In Syria and Lebanon, the winner may remain as long as he desires and return on any of the Fabre Line steamers to New York, also Cabin Class.

Sailing from New York will be under the direction and full assistance of the firm of A. K. Hitti & Co., the well-known steamship ticket agents.

The Beirut Branch of the same firm will render the winner all necessary service and advice free. The editor, thanks to the contacts contracted on his last trip, will also give the winner letters of introduction and recommendation to many influential friends who would render all necessary courtesies. The winner, representing THE SYRIAN WORLD whose services are fully recognized in the motherland, will be assured of the most friendly reception by the authorities and the public.

World Contest

SYRIA and RETURN

SYRIAN WORLD OFFER

The prize offered by THE SYRIAN WORLD to the winner in the contest is free passage, Cabin Class, both ways from New York to Beirut and return, together with a liberal cash allowance for the shore excursions above mentioned on the outward passage. Is this not a worthy prize to try to win?

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

1. THE SYRIAN WORLD prize of a Free Trip to Syria and return will be awarded the individual securing the largest number of New subscribers to the magazine at the regular price of subscription.
2. Considering the great value of the prize offered, the minimum number required to win the award must be not less than one hundred.
3. Every contestant, other than the winner, securing more than one hundred new subscriptions, will be awarded a special cash premium of \$1.50 for every subscription. Those securing less than one hundred will be given \$.100 for every subscription. In the event of two or more contestants tying for the Grand Prize, all will receive identical prizes.
4. The contest closes June 10, 1930. Letters post-marked later than this date will not be counted. Announcement of the awards will be made June 15.
5. Every subscription must be a new subscription, and must be accompanied by a remittance of the full price of \$5.00.
6. Gift subscriptions will be counted as direct subscriptions. For instance, if a contestant succeeds in inducing a friend to make gifts of a year's subscription to each of five individuals, he will be given credit for five individual subscriptions. Multiple subscriptions to the same person will not be counted by the number of years; as, for instance, a single individual subscribing for two years will not be given credit for two subscriptions.
7. Those wishing to enter the contest must write to register, in which case they will be furnished with special blanks and helpful literature.
8. The contest is open to all friends of THE SYRIAN WORLD anywhere in the United States and Canada.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SYRIAN WORLD CONTEST

OWING to the appreciation by the public of our liberal offer of a free trip to Syria as a first prize in the current Syrian World Contest, and in compliance with numerous requests to this effect, we have decided to extend our offer as follows:

- 1—While the minimum number of subscriptions required to win the Free Trip remains at one hundred, any contestant, besides the winner, procuring one hundred subscriptions has the option of receiving either the cash prize or a one-way free trip to Syria.
- 2—If a contestant should procure two hundred, he receives a free round trip.
- 3—For all subscriptions above two hundred the winner, as well as any other contestant, receives a cash premium of one dollar for each subscription in excess of two hundred.
- 4—Organizations are permitted to enter the contest and award the prize to any individual member.
- 5—Contestants working for the limited prizes of either a one-way trip or a round trip may withdraw once their goal is reached and sail on any Fabre Line steamer, cabin class, before the date set for the close of the Contest.

Registered contestants to date are the following:

H. J. Hashem, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	Mrs. J. Rafful, Toledo, Ohio
H. Abood, Brooklyn, N. Y.	Ed. Hershewe, Fort Dodge, Iowa.
Mrs. R. Hamrah, Naugatuck, Conn.	S. Kallil, Detroit, Mich.
N. Sayed, Georgetown, S. C.	F. A. Coriaty, Manchester, N. H.
E. George, E. Liverpool, Ohio	

ONE MORE MONTH
IN WHICH TO WIN.

THE SYRIAN WORLD

VOL. IV. No. 8.

APRIL, 1930.

An Interview With El-Atassi

Syrian Nationalist Leader and President of the Constituent Assembly Discusses the Political Situation.

By SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL

THAT the frequent changes of French High Commissioners in Syria is but a part of French policy to wear down Syrian resistance by dilatory tactics is the belief of Hashem Bey El-Atassi, President of the Syrian Constituent Assembly, and foremost Nationalist leader, as expressed to the writer in a private interview while in Damascus last summer. He holds that High Commissioner Ponsot, however, is the most sympathetic and the best qualified of all the High Commissioners France has so far sent to Syria. The Nationalists believe that if ever a satisfactory solution is to be reached in the Syrian problem it will be through him. That such a solution has not yet been reached indicates the degree of the Syrian Nationalists' insistence on their sovereign rights as against France's interpretation of her mandatory authority. They are not unwilling to concede to France its special position, but only to such a degree as will be compatible with their sovereignty.

In the light of the latest dispatches from Syria, the problem seems no nearer an acceptable solution now than it was last summer. Hashem Bey El-Atassi had a long interview with High Commissioner Ponsot in Beyrouth on April 11, later issuing a statement announcing the failure of the negotiations. This climax came as a distinct shock to the high expectations of the Syrians who had called a special meeting of the Constituent Assembly on April 4 to formulate the minimum demands they would

accept for presentation to the High Commissioner. Substantially, therefore, the Syrian situation has not undergone the slightest change since the High Commissioner dissolved the Constituent Assembly in August of 1928, and the declarations of the Syrian Nationalist leader would hold true at this late date as when they were first given the writer last summer.

* * * *

My interview with Hashem Bey El-Atassi took place on August 12, 1929, at the house of one of the most militant Nationalist leaders, Fakhry Bey Baroody. It was on the anniversary of the declaration of Syrian independence and about forty of the foremost Syrian Nationalists of Damascus had gathered at the Baroody mansion ostensibly to attend as a body the betrothal ceremony of the son of a certain minister of the Provisional Government. El-Atassi drew me to a corner of the spacious hall of the men's quarters, and to the tune of the running fountain, a prime feature in all Damascene palaces, poured out in an eloquent flow of words the account of the Syrian Nationalists' struggles and aspirations. He was speaking with the knowledge and the authority of one who occupied the most responsible state offices both during the reign of King Feisal and after. When the first People's Assembly, which declared the independence of Syria before the French occupation, was called he was elected President and later became Prime Minister during the short reign of King Feisal, and was finally elected President of the Constituent Assembly which formulated the Syrian Constitution found objectionable by High Commissioner Ponsot. He reviewed not only the events associated with these turbulent times but touched on the preliminaries leading to them, including the unsuccessful efforts of the United States at adjusting the Syrian political situation. On this point he spoke in unequivocal terms:

"At the conclusion of the World war, Syria looked to America with the fondest expectations. The world was then being reborn to new conditions and every nation was given to understand that it would be free to shape its own destiny on the principal of self-determination. During the war we had suffered much and hoped that the intervention of America would be the panacea of oppressed peoples. America was idealistic, disinterested and rich. Being strong, she was in a position to enforce her will in demanding for the weak their just rights. We had even hoped that Amer-

ica would guide us, on our rebirth to national life, along the paths of self-government, and we so expressed ourselves to the King-Crane Commission at the time it visited Syria. But America failed us and left us to drift alone on an uncharted course subject to European greed. The disappointment was most severe. But this much I can say with the same degree of truthfulness and sincerity: we harbor no bitterness against America in spite of all our suffering which we attribute to this failure on her part. If she has withheld her



*Hashem Bey El-Atassi,
President of the Syrian Constituent Assembly.*

active political support, we are still hopeful of her continued interest and moral support. We are firm in our belief that she is the most unselfish and disinterested among the great Powers."

One could not mistake the ring of sincerity in the voice of El-Atassi. As he spoke an expression of deep feeling crept over his features. It was evident that the review he was making of the recent political history of Syria stirred the very depths of his

soul. The blithing of the roseate hopes which the Syrians had cherished in America's interest was cause for the deepest sorrow.

The veteran leader soon regained his composure, and to the question as to the extent of help expected from Syrian immigrants in America, he replied that this help could be only moral and financial. The sympathy of Syrians abroad gives the active workers in the field strength and courage to prosecute the national cause to a successful finish, while financial aid is the sinews of all political campaigns. The emigrants' past assistance is fully appreciated, and the hope was expressed that this display of interest would be continued without abatement or interruption.

The conversation then shifted to the subject of the present political situation in the country. Hashem Bey El-Atassi does not believe, in spite of the continual setbacks attending the course of negotiations, that the situation has reached an impasse. "The Syrian people are dependent on the righteousness of their cause, and determined to hold negotiations only with France, in the firm belief that she will act in the end on her reputed sense of justice. All hope of English aid and fair play has been abandoned. England, like Turkey, only used the Syrians as pawns in the political game without regard for their own welfare. The Syrians concede that France is in occupation of the country by the same right that would be claimed by any other Power, although the illegality of any such claim is beyond question. But since France is in actual occupation, the Syrians would be satisfied with her mandate if it could be applied in a manner compatible with Syrian sovereignty and dignity as a nation, a condition on which the Nationalists insist."

Here the Syrian leader surveyed the evolution of political events in the country from the time of the termination of the war up to the dissolution by High Commissioner Ponsot of the Constituent Assembly. He related how the British and Arab forces occupied the country upon its evacuation by the Turks and how Emir Feisal, then commander in chief of the Arab army, was entrusted with the task of government. Transjordan, at that time, was comprised within Syria as well as the four districts of Baalbeck, Hasbaya, Rashaya, and Beka which were later annexed to Lebanon. The Syrian Government was still a military one, the Syrians declaring a monarchy and raising to its throne King Feisal only after the failure of the American Commission to take decisive action. Hashem Bey El-Atassi was the president of the

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Al-Marje, the principal square in Damascus, massed with French whippets during the Syrian revolution.

Congress which declared Syrian independence and became later the first and only Prime Minister during the six months' reign of King Feisal.

"That short period of complete and actual Syrian independence," he said, "shall ever remain a golden dream which we shall continue striving to again translate into actuality."

The British forces had evacuated the country and the Syrians were in full control. Only Lebanon was under actual French occupation, and in order to bring this latter country into the Syrian fold the proposition was advanced by the Syrian Government to form a Syrian federation, "chiefly to permit Lebanon to retain its status of independence." But then the political tempest broke out and General Gouraud sent his famous ultimatum containing the five conditions to wit: Acceptance of the French mandate; disbanding of the national army; acceptance of the paper issue of the Syrian-Lebanese bank as legal currency; surrender by Syria to France of all railroads and appointment of a commission to determine the terms of the application of the mandate.

What followed this famous ultimatum is history. King Feisal claims to have answered it upon receipt, agreeing to all conditions, while General Gouraud insists that the answer was received only after the elapse of the time limit and when he had already ordered the mobilization of the army. Then came the battle of Maisaloom and the entry of the French into Damascus for the first time after the great war.

Hashem Bey El-Atassi here supplied some extremely important details which have not so far appeared in print. King Feisal, according to his account, was not in Damascus at the time the French entered the Syrian capital as commonly believed. On the contrary, he was at the town of Kaswa which is beyond the confines of Al-Ghouta and on the borders of Hawran. He immediately returned to Damascus upon receiving the news that the French were in occupation of the city, but no sooner had he arrived than the French themselves told him to leave. This would absolve King Feisal of any accusation of cowardice in having fled the city upon the approach of the French.

Here Hashem Bey El-Atassi recalled the frequent changes of High Commissioners and consequently of policies: How De Jouvenel had permitted the convocation of a Constituent Assembly with the tacit understanding that it would elect a native government on the basis of entering into treaty negotiations with the

mandatory power. But De Jouvenel departed, never to return, and his successor, Ponsot, not only sanctioned his action but promised to give the people of Syria a free hand in choosing their own form of government. The elections to the Constituent Assembly resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Nationalists, and they decided on a republican form of government for which they naturally laid down a constitution. Here was the stumbling bloc to the orderly progress of Syrian efforts towards achieving national life. The High Commissioner objected to six articles which he held to be incompatible with the right of France as the mandatory power, while the Nationalists, in the words of Hashem Bey El-Atassi, as expressed to the writer, maintain that "the Constitution will cease to be a constitution at all of a free and sovereign nation if shorn of these articles."

It is now over a year and a half since the High Commissioner dissolved the Syrian Constituent Assembly owing to these objectionable articles, and during all this time, in spite of frequent and earnest efforts on the part of both parties, no middle ground seems to have been reached. Such is the political situation in Syria today, and the faith of the veteran Syrian leader, Hashem Bey El-Atassi, remains unshaken that if ever a solution is to be reached it shall be through High Commissioner Ponsot and on the strength of the Syrians' belief in their inherent right and in France's sense of equity and justice.

Helpfulness

By KAHLIL GIBRAN

We are all climbing toward the summit of our hearts' desire. Should the other climber steal your sack and your purse and wax fat on the one and heavy on the other, you should pity him;

The climbing will be harder for his flesh, and the burden will make his way longer.

And should you in your leanness see his flesh puffing upward, help him a step; it will add to your swiftness.

* * * * *

You cannot judge any man beyond your knowledge of him, and how small is your knowledge.

Imaginary Speech to the Senate

By REV. W. A. MANSUR

I. The Greatness of the Loyal Syrian-American Citizens.

SENATORS, all history praises the venerable Syrian race because of its prominent place in history, its contributions to civilization, and its potentialities for future world service. Europe, America and the world are its debtors. Cultures and governments inherit vital impulses from this race. The world itself could not progress, could not attain happiness, and could not achieve freedom were it not for the legacies of the Syrian race.

I will quote only one authority to impress upon you the debt of the world to the Syrian race and its native land. Edward Gibbon says in *The History and the Decline of the Fall of the Roman Empire*, "Yet Phœnicia and Palestine will forever live in the memory of mankind; since America, as well as Europe, has received letters from the one and religion from the other."

The Syrian race has made the most important contributions to human progress. Their ancestors, the Phœnicians, gave us the alphabet, the art of navigation and transmarine commerce. Their forbears of pre-Christian times gave us the highest conceptions of man regarding religion, morals and society. Their Christian forefathers began the missionary impulse that Christianized the world. Their mediæval fathers carried their civilizing influence to the nations, races, and languages of Europe and Africa.

The Syrian race survived world conquerors, repeated migrations, alien cultures and race struggles. Their country, situated between Africa, Europe and Asia, was made a settlement ground for the quarrels of surrounding nations. There Alexander the Macedonian, Pompey the Roman, Tamerlane the Tartar, Napoleon the Frenchman, and Allenby the Englishman fought decisive battles.

The Syrian-Americans have proven themselves perhaps the most law-abiding, liberty-loving and industrious-living of the races in America. During the World War they contributed,

racially, perhaps the highest percentage to the army and navy; they enthusiastically supported the nation's financial drives, and they faithfully upheld American patriotism. For Syrian-Americans believe in America's constitutional government, rule by the vote of the majority, separation of church and state, law-obedience, free speech, press, and assembly, and readiness for the nation's defense.

II. The Attack upon America's Constitutional Patriotism.

Recently, Senators, you heard the illustrious Syrian race slandered to your faces; you saw the glorious Syrian race crucified before your eyes and felt the innocent Syrian race stabbed at your feet. But, sirs, these talented people, these progressive citizens, and these high-grade, liberty-loving, law-abiding, loyal-minded, industrious-living, and God-fearing Americans are slandered, crucified and stabbed for no other reason than race prejudice.

But, Senators, America's constitutional patriotism, principles and future are being attacked, undermined and destroyed by the slander, disgrace and hatred of American citizens. The assault is upon the charters of independence and freedom, the ideals and hopes, the welfare and future of the nation. The charge is against millions of children and youth, millions of weak and helpless, and millions of law-abiding, loyal-hearted and industrious-living citizens.

What think you of him who tramples under his feet the principles of the Constitution? What think you of him who flings to flames the flag that stands for our liberties? What think you of him who betrays the rights of the peoples of our nation? Sirs, trust him not who arrays race against race in America. Trust him not who spurrs America's races to alliances with outside races. Trust him not who promotes the division of America on the basis of race, color, or creed. Trust him not who plants seeds of discord in the body, soul, and spirit of America. I care not what his power or pelf, his name or claim, his race or place, he who divides our nation into hostile races based on race prejudice, discrimination, and hatred betrays the nation's soul, leads you astray, and plants seeds of decay in the nation.

Let us beware of a narrow patriotism, the ruin of nations; a divided nation, the bane of governments; and race prejudice, the destroyer of good-will. Let us learn a lesson from history.

H. G. Wells says in *The Outline of History*, "She (Rome) understood the value of allies; she could assimilate; abroad as at home she could in those days at least "give and take" with a certain fairness and sanity. There lay the peculiar power of Rome. By that it was she succeeded where Athens, for example, had conspicuously failed. The Athenian democracy suffered much from that narrowness of "patriotism", which is the ruin of all nations. Athens was disliked and envied by her own empire because she dominated it in a spirit of civic egotism; her disasters were not felt and shared as disasters by her subject-cities. The shrewder, nobler Roman senators of the great years of Rome, before the first Punic war overstrained her moral strength and began her degeneration, were not only willing in the last resort to share their privilege with the mass of their own people, but eager to incorporate their sturdiest antagonists upon terms of equality with themselves."

When I behold the declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the oath of citizenship, my mind becomes clear as to the true nature of American patriotism. It is upon Constitutional patriotism that we should continue to build America. Upon the following principles rest the harmony, prosperity and defense of America: That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That we stand for a perfect union, the establishment of justice, and the guarantee of domestic tranquility. That we uphold the provision for the common defense, the promotion of the general welfare, and the securing of the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. That we believe, preserve and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Senators, he who slanders any race within our nation violates the spirit of the Constitution, lays a precedent for the insult of other races, and prepares the way for national discord. He who counsels you thus would delude you, betraying the trust of our American forefathers, and leading to the dissolution of the Republic. I counsel you to abide by the Constitutional guarantees as in so doing you stand by the soul of the Republic, you uphold the spirit of the Union and you promote harmony among the races in America.

III. The Solution of America's Immigration Problem.

What is the occasion for the disgrace, disparagement, and contumely of other races? It is the immigration problem. Is it not possible for men of honor, intelligence, wisdom, and humanity to study, discuss, and solve this perplexing problem without contemptuous reproach, insolent temper, and disgraceful vituperation?

Prejudice, racial, religious or national, is usually mothered by ignorance, born in conceit, cradled in isolation, and reared in ill-will. Prejudice blights the mind, atrophies the sympathies and impoverishes the life. Shall prejudiced men who have belated minds, are ignorant of other world values, and lack the principle of good-will, be permitted to lead the nation astray? Prejudiced men are incapable of thinking upon and solving America's immigration problem in a clear, sympathetic and just manner.

Thinking men are agreed that America's welfare demands restrictive immigration. We are convinced that we must safeguard America's principles, institutions and future; that overwhelming numbers cannot change their attitude, customs, and culture quickly enough; that we cannot provide adequate means for the Americanization of incoming multitudes. We are convinced that the incoming peoples would supplant the rights, opportunities, and future that rightly belong to Americans and their children. We are convinced that it is difficult for some races to be amalgamated, transformed and Americanized to produce harmony with American ideals.

For patriotic, economic, and cultural reasons, restrictive immigration is necessary. As President-elect, Herbert Hoover was right in saying, "The restriction upon immigration is a boon not only to those of my hearers who were born on American soil, but to those who have come from the old countries, for every one would suffer equally by the lowering of our wages and standards of living."

Sirs, I propose a solution of the immigration problem on more American, equitable, just and honorable basis. Without insult to any race, without discrimination against any people, and without nullification of human rights. My proposition is simple: First, let the number of races and their population be ascertained. Second, find the percentage of each race and nationality in penitentiary and jail, in orphanage and poor-farm, in illiteracy and

poverty. Third, secure facts about the health, education, patriotism of the rising generations. Fourth, let the immigration quota be set on the basis of American loyalty, law-obedience, and industrious living. Let it be remembered that the public schools will help solve the immigration, education and Americanization problems. Restrictive immigration will give guidance in selecting incoming people, accelerate the Americanization process, and protect America's nationalism. The Constitutional guarantees will maintain pure Americanism, provide adequate defense and uphold national harmony.

IV. The Decision of Syrian-Americans to Uphold the Honor of Their Race.

It seems the Senator who slandered my race knew that we Syrian-Americans, being few in number, could not be heard above the crowd. The Senator who villified my race must have known that we Syrian-Americans were not racially organized and could not speak powerfully for ourselves. The Senator who insulted my race must have realized the Syrian race in the world was small numerically, unrepresented by ambassadors, and unable to resort to arms. Did the Senator lack the milk of human kindness? Was he ignorant of Syrian race history? Was he filled with race bigotry that he inaugurated race persecution? Is race organization necessary in America as insurance against race slander by the Senator?

Sirs, what man of you who nursed from his mother's breast whose blood would not boil with indignation at the slander of his mother and her kind? What man of you with human feelings would not be fired with resistance at the insult of his person and race? What man of you with paternal instincts for his child would not fight at the disgrace of his child and family?

Sirs, shall we Syrian-Americans submit like dumb, driven cattle to this ignominy and disgrace? Shall we keep silent lest we offend you by our self-defense? Shall we cower like brute beasts before greater numbers of other races? Sooner will our tongues be torn by their roots, our eyes gouged out of their sockets, and our hearts plucked from our breasts ere we consent to such cowardly proposals. Sirs, we shall not submit, we shall not keep silent, we shall not cower; rather, we shall resist, fight and press our righteous cause before heaven.

But Senators, this is not the question of one race, but of all

racess, civilizations and nations. The slandering senator has made the American immigration problem the occasion for the world race question.

Again let us be guided by the lessons of history. Yesterday the cohorts of Persia, Babylon, Nineveh and Egypt overran the Near East. Yesterday the armies of Hannibal, Alexander, and Cæsar galloped over the earth. Yesterday the Ottomans, Spain, and Portugal swayed their powers over mankind. Today they are all lying in the dark past, their powers destroyed, and their civilizations a memory.

Seventy-five years ago Japan would have been considered among the backward and inferior races. One hundred years ago Russia, Prussia and Austria were not even mentioned at the Holy Alliance. One hundred and twenty-five years ago China, Japan, Belgium, Australia, and South Africa had not appeared on the world horizon. One hundred and fifty years ago the United States did not exist.

He would be a rash, unreasonable, and presumptuous man who, in the light of history, would venture to draw permanent lines for all times separating the backward from the forward people, the inferior from the superior races, and the uncivilized from the civilized nations. There is no basis of scientific facts, divine revelations, or historical deductions that any race, nation, or people is forever to be the superior of earth. For the backward, inferior and uncivilized race, nation, or people of yesterday may tomorrow supplant the forward, superior, and civilized races, nations, and peoples of today. Thus, in the light of history, there is nothing to be gained from race arrogance, national exploitation and military dominance.

As for the Syrian race it is among the most intelligent of the races, among the most talented people of mankind, and among the most progressive of immigrant races in America. Chas. W. Eliot, president of Harvard University, said, "Millions of European and Near-Eastern people have crossed the Atlantic and taken the serious risk of attempting to secure a foothold in fresh and free America, because they hoped to escape from economic pressure and chronic poverty. * * * The early comers took the risks of the wilderness, the Indians, the untried climate, and the unknown diseases. The late comers have dared the perils of congested cities, of novel industries and of insecure employment. Hence, by heredity, the white Americans of today

—of whatever race or stock—have a fair chance to be by nature independent, bold, and enterprising.” George Adam Smith quotes Hogarth’s statement, “There is no more enterprising, no keener intellect in the Near East than the Syrian of the Fringe—the inhabitants of the Lebanon and the Syrian littoral.” Talcott Williams says of the Syrians in America, “No more intellectual immigration has come to us in the past forty years.”

The modern renaissance of the Syrian race is already bringing forward a world Syrian race, world Syrian influence, and world Syrian commerce. Therefore, as Syrian-Americans, because of our race inheritance, race legacies, and race progress we boldly stand for the honor of our race, and resist the slander hurled at us in the senate chamber.

V. The Demand of Syrian-Americans for Their Rights as American Citizens.

We Syrian-American citizens demand what are our rights as Americans. First, on the basis of the Constitutional guarantees. Second, on the ground of having made the supreme sacrifice during the World War. Third, on the foundation of being God-fearing, liberty-loving, law-abiding, and industrious-living people. We ask for no special privileges, we desire no exceptional favors, and we want no rights but what belong to all Americans.

It is what a man is through choice, growth and achievement that counts and not what he is by accident of birth, place and circumstance. That is the true basis of American citizenship, ideals and institutions. That is what lies back of America’s character, prosperity and progress. That is the real ground of America’s spirit, development and future. That is the foundation of America’s doctrine of equality.

We Syrian-Americans are proud of our ancestors because we would emulate them. We are proud of the achievements of our forefathers because we desire to achieve like them. We are proud of our fathers because we would imitate their progressive spirit. As for pride of race, in itself it is a delusion, for no man chose his race. As for pride of place, in itself it is a fiction, for no man picked his birthplace. As for pride of color, in itself it is a superstition, for no man selected his color.

I demand what rightfully belong to Syrian American citizens on the basis of American citizenship. Chas. W. Eliot groups the Syrian Christian immigrants in America with the highest types

of America's pioneers. "The English Pilgrims and Puritans, the French Huguenots, the Scotch Covenanters, the Moravians, the Quakers, the Russian Jews and the Syrian Christians all fled from religious hostilities or restrictions, and meant to secure, or expected to find, in the New World freedom to worship God each in his own way. They found that liberty, and ultimately established in the United States a régime of absolute religious toleration." We Syrian-Americans are Americans in heart, have made America a permanent homeland, and have an American outlook. Let us Americans repudiate race superiority, for it is at the expense of other races; let us do away with race prejudice, for it is due to lack of appreciation of other races; let us do away with race discrimination, for it is founded on the discount of equal opportunities to other races.

On the basis of America's doctrine of equal liberty to American citizens we Syrian-Americans claim equal respect for our race on the ground of equality with other races in America, as well as equality of citizenship, equality of opportunity and equality before the law.

VI. The Assurance of Victory Is Trough a Firm Trust in God.

Senators, the assurance of victory for the honor of the Syrian race is a firm trust in God. Since our trust is in God our faith is well founded. We are confident of final triumph because of the righteousness of our cause. But let it be remembered that we did not choose this race controversy, we did not provoke this race strife, we did not bring on us this race struggle.

Shall Senators rally to the side of race good-will, national harmony, and human brotherhood, or to the side of race prejudice, national sectionalism, and human strife?

Will you sing the hymn of race hatred of the slandering Senator and betray, like Judas Iscariot, the Gospel of Christian brotherhood for the glittering things of earth; will you apostatize, like Julian the Apostate, from the truth that would make mankind free to uphold a dying superstition; and will you bargain, like Benedict Arnold, the republic of free men for the sordid reward of the enemy of human progress?

I believe God has given the standard to which we should rally. It is my belief that God is the Creator, preserver and governor of the universe; that He is the Father of all races alike; that the Golden Rule is the guide for race relationships;

and that we ought to be brethren. It is my sentiment that we uphold pure Americanism, equal citizenship, and industrious living. In the name of God, in the spirit of America's founders, and for the sake of posterity let there be no race arrogance, race division, or race hatred among us, rather let there be one race, an American race; one flag, an American flag; one allegiance, an American allegiance that shall transcend race, color, creed and birthplace in a common American patriotism.

I predict the outcome of the race problem in America. The day is here, and it is coming to the whole world, that no more shall any one, group, or race be slandered, hindered or judged on the basis of race prejudice.

With my eyes lifted to the God of mankind, my hand saluting the flag of our country, and with a prayer in my heart imploring Divine blessing, let us judge patriotism on the guarantees of the Constitution, men on the basis of character, races on the ground of humanity, and issues on the foundation of justice. It is upon the Constitution, character, humanity and justice that I claim equal respect for the glorious Syrian race among the races of mankind.

Despair

By NAJLA SABE

I wandered by the sea last night
To watch the foamy waves,
But more to hear their dismal groans
Resounding in the caves.

I heard them tell their tales of woe
In melancholy tones,
And heard their answer to my prayers
In mournful, fitful moans.

* * *

Oh Sea! If thou, a soulless thing,
Hast felt the pang of Life
How much more I, who live and love,
Must shoulder in the strife!

Wayfarers of the Lowly Road

By PAUL DEAB

EVER searching, our eyes seek a star,
That most precious jewel in the diadem
Which night does wear. And from afar
Our lowly road seems to wind on endlessly,
For we may not rest now and then
To hear the matins of birds, and lovingly
To touch the crimson of a rose,
Whose fragrance tells us its presence is so near.

We would forget that mortal woes
Shall be our fate. We would have not e'en one fear—
If in willows' shade we might lie,
And glimpse through swaying branches the magic sight
Of moods that fill the golden sky
As it dons the star-flecked sapphire veils of night.

Life sent for our journey the hours,
But gave us not one to spare for happy things;
Not one for music or flowers.
As though imbedded in our mind, ever rings
The cry that these hours are soon gone;
And the omnipresent fear there be no bread.
By a thousand fears are we torn.

Onward, we are into Eternity led,
Very weary. Yet shall we smile
For having rejoiced to feel the ecstasy
Of kind hands leading us awhile,
Of friendships made on this road of Destiny.



The Return Home

(A SHORT STORY)

By LOUIS MARON

NAJIB was leaning on the railing of the upper deck at the stern of the ship. He was watching the unending, foamy path trailing behind them in the water. He could still see dimly the harbor of Beirut, in the distance, and a little nearer, the American University, his Alma Mater. His young, handsome face lit up as he fondly thought of the beautiful site of the college, of his evening walks around the campus, and of the magnificent view of the waters and harbor as seen from the college. Nothing had so inspired him as the lovely sunsets on the Mediterranean waters. He used to stay for hours at a time watching their colorful, slow progress, in enraptured silence. How he was going to miss these! Yet, they had told him of many more wonderful things in America. Perhaps they have beautiful sunsets there, too. His brain was a whirl of past and future events. He thought of his friends and how they had envied him when he told them that he was going to America to continue studying. He wondered if the college in New York was as nice as his in Beirut. His eyes kindled as he thought of New York! In a few weeks he would be there and see for himself all that was claimed for it. New York had always seemed to him a realm of opportunity and adventure; yet today, as he thought of it, he felt uneasy. His reveries seemed to have a flaw in them, a worldly element which was constantly interrupting them and troubling him. And then he thought of his mother—sad and lonely, looking at him with pleading, tearful eyes. Yes, that was why his happiness was not complete. He covered his face with his hands. He was ashamed at the thought of leaving his mother without a word of parting. What would she do when she found out that he had gone—gone to a country which she knew so little about? He trembled! How would she bear it? He made a resolution, then, to pray each night for her welfare and health. Najib loved the fulfillment of his ambitions and had allowed this passing love to conquer his everlasting, sincere love for his mother. But

he would repay her! Yes, he would write to her always—comforting letters. He would earn much money in New York—New York, the city of fortune, teeming with good American dollars. Yes, and he would send her many of them, and perhaps then she would be happy. The thought of acquiring money easily and quickly braced him. He straightened his strong, lithe body. Again he gazed at the rippling foam of the waters. He was surprised to find that Night had suddenly taken possession of the world during his reveries. And he was glad. He loved Night; it helped him to dream such lovely things. The sight now from his position on the deck was much more beautiful than before. The moon was directly above the path of foam and was decorating it daintily with sparkling dots of silver. It was a perfect orb, with a soft, mellow halo about it. Fluffy, black clouds covered it now and then. Najib felt like a child and delighted in catching sight of it as it emerged from behind its temporary hiding place, beaming and radiant with light. He stayed there for a long while, discovering new sights and visions to refresh his sensitive, weary mind.

* * * *

Three years have passed and Najib is still in New York. He is now taking only one course at college, devoting most of the day to his work. He has had a hard time promoting a business enterprise of his own and even now he is having trouble trying to keep things going smoothly. Just a little time remains to himself and this he generously gives to his blond American friend. He liked her ever since he met her at an affair given by one of his friends. She always seems to him so pleasant and cheerful. He likes the way she pronounces his name and admires even more the way she talks in her inimitable, babyish way.

His letters to his mother have dwindled to an average of about one every four months. She is writing him faithfully, pleading with him to come back. She enquires constantly about his health and well-being. He knows in advance what each of her forthcoming letters will contain. Yet he likes to receive and read them. He can picture his mother so vividly when reading her letters. He wants to write to her more often, but his time is not his own. No, his time belongs to his business. His career needs all his attention now. When he becomes successful, he will make up for everything. His mother must realize this. Doesn't

she want him to become rich? For then he could send for her and they would live happily together. He smiles as he thinks of his little, old-fashioned mother. What would she think of New York and its dazzling, breath-taking activities? He hopes she will like his American friend. Yes, she will have to if she is to live with him. But, now, he must forget about the future and concentrate on his business. Plenty of time for these other things!

* * * *

The seventh year has sped by. Najib is now more successful, but not much. He has discovered that his dreams of acquiring easy money have all been mirages. One has to work hard in New York even to live.

Najib is changed. Success and riches do not lure him on to work as they used to. He has no more the blond, babyish friend with the sweet smile. He has no more the pitiful letters from his aging mother. He is alone now—lonesome and despondent. He sits at his desk and gazes blankly at the world. What ails him? For months he searches for the cause of his despondency. It dawns upon him suddenly that he is homesick—homesick for everything—his mother, and Lebanon with its beautiful hills and plains. But most of all his mother. He longs to see her again! Yes, he must go back. Nothing now entices him to stay in New York. Other, deeper things lure him. But he'll come back to New York! Oh, yes! For when he is well again, he will pick up the stray threads of his business and ambitions and everything will be as he wishes it to be.

Again he is on the ship, standing on the spot where he had stood seven long years ago. He is thinking of the mother whom he has not seen for so many years! Is she changed? Will she greet him the way he had imagined she would? He hopes so and is confident of it.

He has reached his little town in Lebanon radiant with the thought of seeing his mother again. Najla, his childhood friend, tells him about her. Najib is stunned! He cannot believe it.. He is dazed and seems oblivious to everything. Not until he has seen the little rooms of his home, does he realize it all. He cries bitterly. His conscience tortures him. Why hadn't he communicated with her oftener? And all his hopes and dreams of their future life together? Shattered and lost! He constantly hears the soft, consoling voice of Najla—his mother's faithful com-

panion. But not even that will fill the vacuum in his heart. He needs no comfort. He wants to fight it out alone with himself.

Many months pass and Najib is still living in the same state of misery and loneliness. One day he finds himself gazing fondly at Najla, who is now keeping house for him as she had for his mother. Najla is pretty! Was she always like that? He never noticed it before. How quietly she went about her duty! Everything she does or says now seems perfect to him. Her presence makes him happier now. He wants her to be near him all the time. Najla is conscious of the sudden change in Najib. She blushes when their hands accidentally touch. Najib wonders. Does she feel the same way about him as he does about her? He determines to find out! Would she.....? He is relieved when she reassures him. Najib is happy. He hasn't felt so in such a long time that now it seems almost unreal. Najla is happy, too. Happy to be with him, and happy because they are going to America.

On the day that they are to leave the little town of their childhood, Najla brings out a large oil painting of Najib's mother. Najib reverently kisses it and prepares it for its long journey *home* with them.

Beethoven

By THOMAS ASA

Oh, immortal master of divine intent!
Though you now rest in silence and repose,
And thy knowing heart and eyes did close
Upon the world you knew, with full content,
Your deathless voice has chained this firmament;—
Made it forget its earthly cares and woes,
Dispelled the menace of life's hidden floes—
A messenger of love by Heaven sent.
The wings of time shall bear the joyful praise
Of creatures of the earth, with lips released
By thy vicarious touch of Godly flame;
That shall guide the soul through fruitful ways,—
A light to ages yet to come—till all has ceased;
Your genius has not left the world the same.

From Beirut to the Palestine Border

A CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF THE
EDITOR'S TRIP ABROAD

By SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL

VII

RISING directly behind Beirut, and forming a sort of backdrop to the level plain which serves as stage to the capital city, is the district of Ash-Shouf, one of the most beautiful and populous sections of the Lebanon range. Aleih, the summer capital of the Lebanese Republic, is in this district, and although situated at an elevation of 2500 feet, the distance from the capital proper is but twenty minutes by automobile. Along the same latitude towards the south are a number of important towns but a few miles apart. If all places of interest in Lebanon were to be seen, these could not be missed.

Aleih is the gateway to this section in that it lies directly on the Beirut-Damascus highway. It offers much of the cosmopolitan aspect; its cafés and shops and bustling traffic and general activity immediately betray its official character. But as one travels further south, away from the main highway, he comes more and more into the Lebanese atmosphere, although of a decidedly refined and modern character. The comparative proximity to the city and the increasing means of easy transportation have converted the towns of this district into virtual suburbs. I was told that since the war regular commutation to Beirut has been maintained during all seasons.

Aside from considerations of general interest, I had definite personal reasons for visiting this section. Souk-El-Gharb is the hometown of my friend and schoolmate, Nasib Kalaf, and the summer residence of the great Arab scholar, Jabr Dumit, whose golden jubilee as teacher of Arabic in the American University of Beirut was celebrated only a year before. We were friends through correspondence, and in paying my respects to

him I was voicing the admiration of his thousands of Syrian and Lebanese admirers throughout America. Alas that he should have passed away before the close of the year!

From there the road led to Shamlan. This is a town I would not have failed to visit even if it were not so easy to reach. It is the hometown of our celebrated scholar Dr. Philip K. Hitti as well as that of our well-beloved compatriot Ibrahim K. Hitti. Who knows that this little hamlet will not some day house a national shrine?

And only a few miles further south was Abeih, hometown of one of our shining literary lights in America, Dr. Salim Y. Alkazin. I could tell by the first glance at his venerable mother, sitting serenely on the stoop of her home facing the massive old church, whence had come her son's rich spiritual heritage. Then there must be something inspirational in the natural topography of the town. It nestles snugly on a bluff overlooking a succession of gently deploying valleys which terminate in the vast stretches of the coastal plain to the south of Beirut. The plain here appears like an immense checkerboard with its yellow patches of desert and green squares of sown. It merges harmoniously into the limpid blue of the placid Mediterranean.

This circumscribed tour of the district was accomplished in a single afternoon. That night I spent in the city to permit of my early continuation the next morning on the last leg of my travels through Lebanon. At that season they were busily engaged in widening the road from Beirut to Sidon and covering it with asphalt. General traffic was permitted only at certain intervals during the day, and the authorities were most strict in showing no favoritism. Hence the necessity of an early departure.

The morning of August 21 found us speeding south in the direction of the Palestine border. Soon we came to the famous olive grove of Shwaifat, said to be the third largest in the world. Then we passed the wireless station at Khalda, which is in daily communication with the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Ad-Damour, with its vast mulberry groves and numerous silk filatures, was the next town of importance on the way. At that time of the year, however, its river had almost dried up leaving the broad beach in a not altogether hospitable appearance of desolation and nakedness. Tradition tells us, nevertheless, that it was hospitable enough to Jonah when he was cast ashore by the inhospitable whale after his three days' incarceration.

While passing through a small town below Ad-Damour, our chauffeur, who in this instance was a Metwali native of the section, brought his car to a sudden stop and complained of being hit by a pebble. Blood was trickling from a wound in his forehead just above the left eye. He had been more observant than we and said that two small boys about a hundred feet away were engaged at the pastime of pelting passersby with stones, and he would remonstrate with their parents who were the keepers of a nearby inn. At first we thought we would not interfere, but soon we heard piercing shrieks and screams from the direction of the inn. Fearing the little incident might develop into a serious affair between the chauffeur and the lads' parents we decided to investigate. Think of our surprise when, upon our arrival, we discovered the father belaboring the youngsters mercilessly with a mulberry twig. He was profuse in his apologies to us and to the chauffeur. "The boys are of an irresponsible age," he remarked, "but they must learn to welcome and protect strangers instead of molesting them." This was in strict keeping with the universally observed Lebanese tradition.

We reached the city of Sidon shortly before noon. My cousin, Joseph Mokarzel, would not rest until he found his local agent. And he was right in his insistence, for the agent proved to be a neat young chap having ready access to all quarters and all places of historical interest in the city. The car could not travel in the narrow, tortuous streets of the old town, so he led the way on foot to the waterfront. Going through this once famous Phœnician seaport one did not have to draw much on his imagination to reconstruct its hoary civilization and the conditions under which its inhabitants of old lived and worked. The guide led us to places the ordinary tourist could hardly hope to see—through the old Moslem and Christian quarters, past rows of small doorways opening on inner courts that left much to be desired from the sanitary viewpoint. Every block seemed to be a fort in itself, built in heavy masonry with narrow and dingy passages giving the aspect of catacombs, and the denizens flitting about noiselessly like phantoms. The guide explained that he was leading to the old Crusaders' fort, of which only an isolated tower and a block house remained. But the objective did not prove as interesting as the sites encountered en route. At one time we actually had to stoop to pass under a stone arch supporting tower-like dwellings. He made the amazing statement that

APRIL, 1930



The plain of Saida, ancient Phœnician city, viewed from the piazza of a palace crowning one of the neighboring hills.



General view of the Crusaders' Castle protecting the harbor and city of Saida. Its only value at present is that of a relic of antiquity.

that passageway was actually not only a public thoroughfare, but one of the main traffic arteries of the old quarter of the city.

Perhaps the most imposing sight in Sidon is the sea fort. It is reached over a causeway that has fallen in ruins in places and is covered by planks. Within this causeway was built an aqueduct to supply the fort with potable water during sieges.

The lone guardian of the fort opened the dilapidated wooden door to let us into the enclosure. Alice Mokarzel, an Egyptian-born niece of Joseph Mokarzel, displayed not only bravery but sure-footedness in negotiating the risky passages of the fortifications. We went as far as the extreme tower, at the base of which can still be observed, in a good stage of preservation, the ominous looking sea gate. What desperate hand-to-hand encounters must have taken place throughout the centuries in the narrow passages leading up from the landing within this tower!

The guardian called our attention to the walls of the fort facing the sea in which were still embedded the solid cannon balls used before the invention of explosive shells. He also pointed out the ruins of what was once the chapel during the occupation of the Crusaders.

The mental picture of days gone by, with all their bloody and desperate struggles, evoked by the sight of these historic ruins, was rudely shattered when we repaired to what was described to us as the cleanest restaurant in town. There we discovered that this was made possible through the enterprise of a former Syrian emigrant in America, one who had seen service on Atlantic Ave. in Brooklyn and who was now doing a thriving business by providing his patrons with clean napkins and decent service.

We could have continued from Sidon to the other famous Phœnician city, Tyre. But I chose to visit Jedaidat Merjioun and enter Palestine from the inland route. The road led to the Khardaly Bridge, where the French army made its last desperate stand against the Druze rebels in 1925 and effectively stemmed their tide. Above this bridge, on the crest of a steep hill whose bare sides rise almost perpendicularly from the depth of the valley, is the famous Crusaders fort of Shakif, its black walls silhouetted menacingly against the azure skies. One could hardly imagine a more imposing and awe-inspiring sight.

Before reaching Jedaidat we stopped at a melon-grower's hut to sample the watermelons for which this section is noted.



A section of the old sea fortification of Sidon, now partly used as dwellings, as viewed from the causeway leading to the Crusaders' Castle.

They proved to be of a small variety, only a little larger in some cases than ordinary oranges. They are sold by weight and the virtues ascribed to them were surprising. "Place the melon in the shade for three minutes and it becomes as cold as ice," asserted the vender. We acted on his advice but were not convinced. The natural flavor of the melon, however, was all that was claimed for it.

That evening I was the guest of Ceasar Rashid, brother of my good friend in America Mubadda Rashid of Chautauqua. About twenty prominent citizens attended the dinner, and their geniality, hospitality and culture were in keeping with the standard of their compatriots in America. The host requested George Samra, then on a visit from New York, to act as toastmaster. The speakers included Dr. Mujalli Jabara, George Nada, George Shadid, Dr. Michel Jabara, N. Farha, Alfred Samra and the editor of *Al-Nahdat*, one of the two local papers.

In responding, it was but natural to tell the homefolks of the wonderful success their townsmen had achieved in America. The immigrants of Jedaidat are a credit to the Syrians in every field of endeavor.

It was most gratifying to learn of the extent of progressiveness among the inhabitants of Jedaidat. Here is a town that is



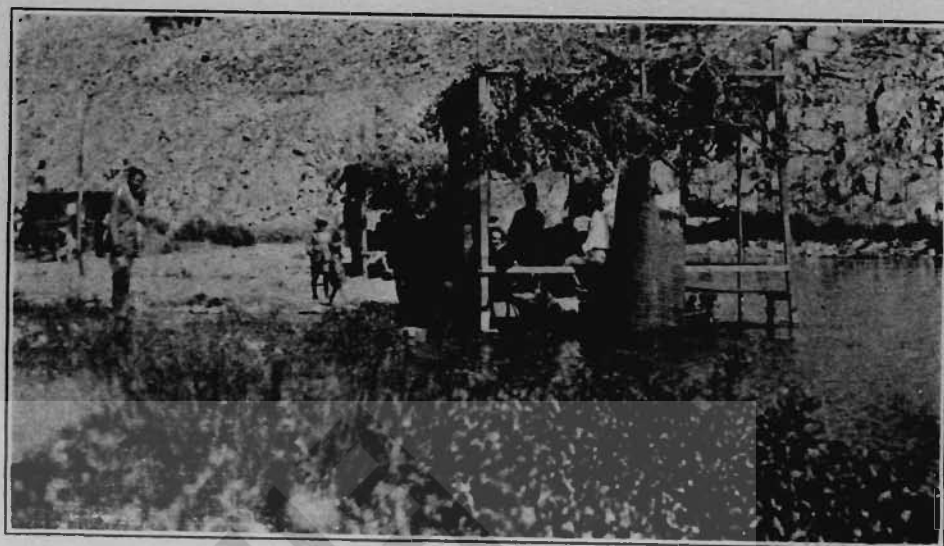
A general view of Jedaidat, taken from the highest hill of the town which is to be soon converted to a reservoir through the enterprise of Jedaidat immigrants in America.

one-hundred per cent. literate. Education is paramount in the mind of every citizen so that out of a population of two thousand, the twelve hundred minors of school age all attend school. In this respect it may be held out as the ideal town of Lebanon.

Another virtue of the citizens of Jedaidat is their civic pride and patriotic solidarity. While entering the town I noticed a beautiful cemetery, surrounded by a neat stone wall above which could be seen stately cypresses and numerous elaborate tombstones. Inquiry revealed that all denominations, Orthodox, Catholics and Protestants, had subordinated denominational differences to the creation of this civic enterprise.

Jedaidat supports two weekly newspapers, both well edited and of good typographical appearance. They not only serve the local community, but furnish the connecting link between the town and its emigrant sons abroad.

Cesar Rashid accompanied me on a visit to the Melchite cathedral where we met the Rt. Rev. Clement Sayegh who had just returned from a visit to South America. The bishop was occupying temporary quarters while his residence was being rebuilt after it had been destroyed by the Druzes during their occupation of Jedaidat in their last revolution. The church building during those eventful times was used as a stable, and the



The Old-Country conception of kaif—a picnicking party at the headwaters of the Hasbani river on an improvised island-café. Running water is music to Lebanese ears.

sacred vessels carried away. Bullet marks were still visible in the dome and other parts of the church.

N. Farha treated me to a pleasant surprise. He led me up the highest hill in Jedaidat commanding a superb view of the countryside for miles around. "On this spot," he said, "we plan to build a reservoir which not only will supply Jedaidat with drinking water to be distributed in the homes, but also furnish ample water for irrigation purposes. Water is plentiful in yonder river below, and the hydroelectric power we will generate will serve both to supply the town with light and power and serve to pump the water to the reservoir. Then this arid land will be transformed into radiant gardens. We could ship the produce to nearby and distant markets and can the remainder according to American methods for home and foreign markets. This will become possible when power is made available. Building of home industry is the salvation of the country."

Farha was a successful business man in the United States. He returned to Lebanon early in 1929 to devote himself to the promotion of this project in which he is being morally and financially supported by his fellow immigrants of Jedaidat in America. He has already secured the franchise from the Lebanese government.



Part of the party at the Hasbani river during the editor's visit to Jedaidat. Mr. Farha is the bare-headed man with glass in center. Mrs. Farha is mixing the ingredients for the Kibbe.

With such initiative and enterprise, Jedaidat could be transformed into a garden spot.

The following morning we breakfasted at the modern home of the Samras. The revolution had visited this, as well as many other homes in Jedaidat, with either complete or partial destruction, and all are being rebuilt or repaired principally with funds from America. Nejib Samra went back home for a visit a few years ago, and his brother George undertook the same pilgrimage last year, and each contributed to make the parental home a model of modern comfort.

One is actually overwhelmed by the wholehearted hospitality of the people of Jedaidat. I was anxious to cross early into Palestine, only a few miles distant, but they insisted on treating me to a *real* picnic at the headwaters of the Hasbani River. Farha was host on this occasion and the lambs slaughtered and the *Kibbe* pounded and the *Arac* provided were sufficient to provision an army. And we were in fact a small army and lived up to the most accepted army traditions in this respect.

There must have been in Jedaidat at the time more than a score who were returning from the United States alone for a visit to the homeland. One of these was bent on roughing it to the limit. When the party broke up in the late afternoon he despondingly spurned the offer to ride back to town in an automo-

bile. Shouldering his gun and rolling up his pants almost to the knee, he hit the road alone with the assertion that he would reach town before dark.

Close by Jedaidat is the town of Hasbaya which was the scene of a bloody massacre during the uprising of 1860 and to which we paid a short visit. Midway between Jedaidat and Hasbaya is Kawkaba, whose inhabitants covered themselves with glory by their valiant defense of their homes during the recent revolution. From time immemorial the history of that part of Syria seems to be a continuous record of bloody feuds. I crossed the border into Palestine that afternoon only to encounter another bloody outbreak with the memorable Arab-Jewish riots of August 23.

The Syrian Laborer

By JONARD EGIS

THE factory whistles shriek: it's five o'clock.
 The mother lays her child in bed and goes
 To heat the supper..... "Liz, be sure to rock
 The baby if he cries." Fair Lizbeth throws
 Her doll aside and runs to baby's bed,
 To look into his laughing eyes and say
 That baby has the prettiest little head
 In all the world. It seems, at end of day,
 Her brother feels that father will arrive;
 For now he smiles and waves his clenched fist
 To show the world he's happy he's alive.
 The mother looks outside: a treacherous mist
 Pervades the streets..... and father has not worn
 His coat..... She worries..... In the hall she hears.....
 His step..... At last..... the father's come. Man born
 To work is he: a giant with no fears
 —Except that one, of God. No school had he
 In youth to aid him in his later life;
 No books of science and philosophy;
 Yet see what Life has granted him: a wife
 Who loves, is faithful; children satisfied;
 A place called Home to which he returns at night:
 A happy, God-bless'd man, who spaces wide
 Can face and shout that all on Earth is right.

Book Reviews

ANOTHER NOTABLE BOOK BY RIHANI

Around the Coasts of Arabia, by Ameen Rihani, New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 364 pp. \$6.00.

ANY book by Ameen Rihani on Arabia is bound to be hailed as a distinct contribution to Arabian lore. His former book entitled *Maker of Modern Arabia*, or *Ibn Saoud, His Country and His People*, was considered the most notable addition in modern times to the sum total of our knowledge on Arabia. And if it is so considered with almost common consent it must rank among the most notable contributions of all times, because Arabia remains today as in all times past the country of inscrutable mystery of whose forbidden interior only the most daring had ever had a glimpse.

Not so, however, with our celebrated author and traveler Rihani. He had access to every spot in Arabia with the exception of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. And even these he could have seen if he but wished to profess Islam, but this he would not do not through any religious scruples, but simply because he would not buy a privilege on any condition. He is so broad on matters religious that he could not conscientiously be bound to any one creed.

Rihani's accounts of his Arabian experiences and adventures lose nothing, however, through this seeming deficiency. Of the two Moslem holy cities Mecca is by far the most important, and Mecca is forbidden to all but Moslems, which puts it beyond the immediate interest of travelers, while descriptions of it so far published by Moslems and others have deprived it of a good deal of its element of mystery. All other parts of Arabia, however, are lands of potentialities, yet only very little was known about them. Never before, we believe, was such a comprehensive account given of these parts of the world as in Rihani's recent work.

Rihani is one of the very few contemporaries qualified to speak authoritatively on modern Arabia. His travels in that country were conducted under the most auspicious circumstances,

making it possible for him to learn and observe what the casual traveler could never hope to know. He was the guest of the Arab potentates wherever he went, inasmuch as his professed object was to bring about a federation of Arab states. Arabic, besides, being his native language, he was able to gather all his information first-hand.

While in his former work Rihani dealt with Ibn Saoud's kingdom, in his other book just published he deals with all the countries along the Arabian coasts. The book is in five parts, the first dealing with the author's experiences while with King Hussein in the Hijaz, the second while with the Adrisi, the third is on the subject of Kuwait, the fourth about Bahrain and the fifth about Aden and the Protectorates.

The book abounds with interesting information and anecdote. Rihani in it is at his best and the reader finds himself fascinated by the charm of description and the wealth of material. One almost lives with the author those memorable days he spent with each potentate, so vivid and gripping the style.

To our readers this, as well as other books by Rihani, should have a special appeal. The author is one of us, and to share with his host of admirers throughout the English-speaking world their admiration of him is the least that could be expected of us. We should have his works not alone as a gesture of appreciation but as a distinctive mark of culture in our homes and pride in our men of outstanding achievement.

A USEFUL BOOK

The Syrian-American Directory Almanac for 1930, Arida and Andria, New York, \$2.50.

By the publication of this book, Nasib Arida and Sabri Andria have rendered the Syrian community a genuine service which fills a long-felt want. The arrangement of the work is comprehensive. It is divided into two main parts, the first being in Arabic and containing much useful information serving as a source of ready reference on Syrian history, political divisions of the country and a historical sketch of Syrian immigration to the United States, while the other section contains a business and residential directory of Manhattan and Brooklyn in both Arabic

and English. This should prove invaluable for business purposes whether for Syrian or American concerns wishing to circularize the Syrians. The publishers promise to issue the directory annually, with additions that will gradually cover all parts of the United States and perhaps, in time, Canada and Mexico.

With the appearance of Arida and Andria's publication, announcement was made of similar projects to be undertaken locally for the city of Detroit and the State of California. Naturally, when the Syrian-American Directory is complete, as we hope it will be in time, the other local directories will become unnecessary.

A Syrian-American Business Directory for all the United States was published over twenty years ago by S. A. Mokarzel and H. Otosh. It was discontinued after the first year for lack of sufficient public support. Now, after the lapse of almost a quarter of a century, we trust that the Syrian community will appreciate the benefits of such a useful public enterprise sufficiently to lend it their support so that it may not prove as short-lived as its predecessor.

A BOOK ON RELIGION

The Pearl of Revelation, by Rev. Emmanuel Elkouri Hanna, published by the author, 88 Washington St., New York City.

Rev. Emmanuel Elkouri Hanna is a Syrian Catholic missionary priest in America known among his friends for his original theories as to the High Priest Melkizadek. In the foreword to his book he makes plain the fact that one of his principal objects in its publication is to "show who was Melkizadek and to prove that he was a true man, a true priest and a true king having a real father and mother." Other objects of the book are "to prove that the sacrifices of the Old Law were real symbols of our Divine Sacrifice, which is the Manna from Heaven; and that the institution of the Holy Eucharist is Divine."

Church authorities and theologians are better judges of the merits of such a work, and their approval is apparent from the fact that it is published by the authority of His Eminence Cardinal Hayes of New York. The dedication is to the Rt. Rev. Joseph Schrembs, bishop of Cleveland, Ohio.

ENGLISH AND ARABIC MANUAL

Al-Bakoorat Al-Gharbeyat, by Dr. A. J. Arbeely, published by N. M. Diab, N. Y., 670 pp. \$6.00.

The second edition of this useful book was published by N. M. Diab, editor of the *Mirror of the West*, who bought the publication rights from the estate of the author, the late Dr. Arbeely. The second edition is printed from the original plates of the first and is in every respect similar to it.

Dr. Arbeely was one of the first Syrian immigrants to the United States. Having had his English education in the motherland, and following it up to a great deal of advantage in America, he was eminently qualified for such a difficult work as appears in *Al-Bakoorat*.

Mainly, the object of the book is to serve as a self-instructor in English to readers of Arabic. The lessons are simplified by the transliteration of the exercises and the giving of the pronunciation in both languages. In this respect it is one of the most useful books to be had in its class.

An added advantage of the work is the appendix consisting of forty pages intended to help English-speaking persons learn the Arabic language. The same simple and effective method is here followed as in the other part of the book dealing with the teaching of English to Arabic-speaking persons.

REVISED ENGLISH-ARABIC DICTIONARY

Elias' Modern Dictionary, by Elias A. Elias, Elias' Modern Press, Cairo, Egypt.

Mr. Elias' Dictionary is by no means the only one of its nature, but it surely ranks among the best. In its revised form, appearing late in 1929, many corrections and additions have been introduced making the work more serviceable and dependable whether for the student or the scholar. The hundreds of illustrations occurring in it give it a decided advantage.

Other recent publications by this publishing concern include Arabic translations of *The Socialistic Movement*, by Ramsay MacDonald; *A Monk's Romance*, by Alexis Bouvier, and other novels and works on sociology by English and French authors.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

ASFURIYEH

A CRITERION

FOR Dr. Corban's enthusiasm over the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, otherwise known as Asfuriyeh, there is a plausible reason. He is a specialist in mental diseases and is in a position to appreciate the great need of such institutions. Mentally deranged persons are no longer considered, in this advanced age, as being possessed by the devil and shackled and confined to dungeons. Medical science, combined with humanitarian treatment, has restored many an unfortunate to a normal condition of health. Neglect in the initial stages of mental, as well as of other diseases and physical irregularities, is bound to aggravate the patient's conditions and perhaps lead to an incurable state, whereas scientific care, applied in time, might prove the means of a complete cure.

In our age of high-tension living, mental derangements and nervous breakdowns are more prevalent than in former times. Hence the necessity of greater attention and care, and the urgency of providing suitable means for the proper treatment of mental ills.

THE SYRIAN WORLD pub-

lished in a former issue a short report by Miss Hilda Fox on the Lebanon Hospital for Mental diseases. We now wish to announce that we have received from Miss Fox a number of copies of the latest report on this institution for free distribution. Anyone interested may write us for a copy and it will be cheerfully sent him.

We are again referring to this hospital apropos of the publication of Dr. Corban's communication on the subject. We cannot too highly commend the active interest which this New Zealand-born Lebanese physician has taken in the promotion of this project. It would be most gratifying to see some Syrian or Lebanese physician in all other countries follow his lead. Such work falls naturally within the province of medical men and they should take the initiative in promoting it. A physician appreciates more than any other the importance of mental hygiene and the necessity of such humanitarian enterprises, and a committee of physicians, if formed for the purpose, should find little difficulty in interesting our men of wealth in the cause.

Dr. Corban has taken the

initiative in New Zealand. He has succeeded in interesting the local press and raising considerable funds. He has set the goal for his campaign at \$15,000.

A further and most important consideration is that we cannot depend forever in the upkeep of our educational and humanitarian institutions on foreign charity. All claim to national pride and all assertion of the right for independence fail of their own weight when we make no concrete move to take care of our own public institutions. Independence in educational and charitable enterprises should even be more important to us than economic independence. The latter will follow as a natural result of the former. We cannot hope to develop a national consciousness when our educational and charitable destinies are controlled and directed by foreigners.

So far practically all institutions of higher education in Syria have been established and are still directed by foreigners, principally missionary interests. The same statement, with perhaps a few exceptions of recent origin, applies to charitable enterprises. This condition of continued dependence on foreigners spells ill for the country's future.

But with the present awakening of national consciousness this condition should not be suffered to continue much longer. Already we are extended the invitation to share in the management, and ultimately to assume complete control, of many such institutions. We would naturally retain for the founders the gratitude due their benevolent initiative, but aside from that, control and direction should be in our hands. The American University of Beirut is one of the institutions coming under this class—the last campaign to raise funds from among its alumni and their friends was launched on this understanding. It was a clear invitation to the natives to share in the support and management of the institution with the avowed purpose of ultimately assuming full control. Other institutions may be expected to adopt the same policy.

Our fate is in our own hands, and it would behoove us to ponder the result of our continued dependence on foreign charity, and to seriously consider the effect of such dependence on our national character, for then we might be prompted to accelerate the movement for educational and economic independence which we believe is bound to come eventually.

POTENTIAL FIELD

A correspondent from South Africa writes that his greatest regret is that he cannot compete in *THE SYRIAN WORLD* contest for a free trip to Syria. This would indicate that the idea of a free trip finds favor with lovers of travel, especially when travel is to the homeland of one's ancestors. Here in America we have had unstinted praise of the idea. It is agreed that the prize is valuable, the terms liberal and the object most worthy. But why no contestant has so far approached the goal we are at a loss to understand, except that entrants in the contest are unwilling or unable to give the work sufficient time and effort. Otherwise the goal should be easy of attainment. The excuse of hard times is not sufficient to stand in the way of securing a hundred subscriptions.

Out of a total of 250,000 Syrians in the United States, 100,000 at least are American-born. All these must have attended school, and no less than fifty per cent. must have graduated from high school. Publication of *THE SYRIAN WORLD* was undertaken primarily for this element. They should all be potential readers. Even if we were to concede a drastic reduction in this estimate we

would still have ten or fifteen thousand Syrian-Americans of a comparatively high standard of education. Are these not sufficient as potential readers?

What would seem to be the greatest obstacle in reaching this large number of Syrians is that they are too widely scattered. But, on the other hand, that should be all the more reason why they should be reached. Protracted isolation will in time result in complete loss of one's racial identity. This would be unfortunate for what it would mean in the future. Knowledge and appreciation of one's ancestral background is a decided asset in the cosmopolitan nature of the American nation, and a sympathetic understanding of one's racial culture would mean a distinct addition to American culture now in process of formation.

Syrians in America can contribute largely along this line. It would be a sad commentary on our racial pride if we cannot be aroused to an adequate appreciation of our singular racial heritage.

We are only too anxious to have someone win the prize. But it is only reasonable that in order to win one should show results commensurate with the value of the prize offered.

Readers' Forum

SYRIAN SPECIALIST SUPPORTS ASFURIYEH HOSPITAL PROJECT

**Dr. Corban of New Zealand has
Faith that Syrians will not Be
Satisfied with Erection
of One Ward.**

Editor The Syrian World

I was very glad indeed to see commendable and honourable mention of the Lebanon Mental Hospital in your November issue. Unlike yourself, I have not yet had the good fortune to pass by on the Beirut-Damascus road and view in reality what you bear witness to as "the trim buildings, the well-kept grounds, and the apparently contented inmates giving indications of efficiency and benevolence in management." At the moment I cannot think of any more worthy object for interested Syrians to spend their money on in their old home and, unless indeed it be the direct relief of any of their own relatives in necessitous circumstances. At heart the average Syrian is a supporter of good causes, and often a builder of worthy structures. Before men had enough medical knowledge to take practical interest in cooperative healing, they inclined more to the attractions of religious belief, and sacred edifices formed a common vehicle for expressing themselves. Then came general hospitals. Finally the most highly specialized of all, dealing with the mind—mental hospitals. Religion, physical healing, mental

healing—a serial of progress in three chapters. In all these the Arab mind has played a significant role. Dr. Withington in his book "Medical History from the Earliest Times," states that "in an age when no Christian monarch, with the rare exceptions of Charlemagne and Alfred the Great, troubled himself in the slightest about the education of his subjects or the progress of science and literature, we find Caliph after Caliph, and Vizier after Vizier establishing schools and libraries for the public benefit, and filling their courts with physicians and philosophers. Their remarkable generosity to the former would alone entitle them to the gratitude of the profession, and even had the Arabs themselves made no scientific discoveries, they would at least deserve the praise of having encouraged others to do so."

Nearer home, we have the testimony of Usamah and others to show that the older Arab physicians had an intelligent conception of the treatment of mental disorder. Are we sufficiently honouring their skill and wisdom by exercising in the present generation more than a passing interest in their achievements? A tendency of the present age is to take the big things of the past for granted while hurrying on to ultra modern stunts. With what exuberance does the modern Syrian scatter a few thousand dollars in a big to-do to express delight on some such occasion, say, as a memorable air-journey by a Carranza? When those in high places pass by in the land, the Syrian is ready to meet and to fete.

Of course open-heartedness can be and is expressed in many channels. One will build a neat new church in his old native village; another will be benevolent to a charity in his new Western home. Being specially interested in mental hygiene I perhaps run some risk of being labelled biased, or of seeing the world along one main path. As the business man roughly classifies humanity for his purpose into those who buy and those who sell, so I suppose the doctor cleaves a line between those who are sick and those who are well; the psychiatrist likewise into the more or less sane and the more or less insane. The absence of any sharp-demarcated boundary should make all thinking folk attempt to visualize the aspect from either side. Miss Hilda Fox's article and your endorsement are very timely and deserving of the consideration of all Syrians who realize the necessity of dissimulating indifference to past heritages from the illustrious Arabs, and the urgency of present day claims to exercise the benevolent instinct in a thoroughly sound channel. Only Miss Fox was far too modest in suggesting the donation of one mere ward—a good half dozen would better meet the case. At our hospital here (Toukanui Mental Hospital, Kihikihi, N. Z.) we have this week opened modern wards for over a hundred patients, and the extensions are contemplated to make provision for at least a thousand. In addition, there is also being erected a very fine new nurses' home to house over sixty. At the very least, a hospital like Asfuriyeh wants its accommodation doubled almost right away. A hospital run on such amazingly sound and proper lines should be as speedily as possible built up to a minimum of five hundred beds. It would then

be in a position to make its facilities and amenities properly known, and it could easily be filled within a short time with all manner of mental patients. This amplifying of accommodations on the very modern system of detached wards (houses or villas) allows both the proper classification of patients according to type, and the provision of more homelike and curative features without the evils of overcrowding. Housing of staff is also most important—nurses deserve all the consideration that can be given to make their work more efficient and pleasant to themselves and their charges.

The great object of a mental hospital is not much to harbour nervous wrecks (the old idea, hence the term asylum) as to cater to individuals in the early stages of mental disorder and speedily return them to their former useful spheres in a condition of normalcy. Mental hospitals in the Near East are frightfully inadequate in accommodation when measured by Western standards. Whatever the French may have done in Syria for the improvement and betterment of its inhabitants, the handling of the problem of mental hygiene has not been one of their strong points. The more the pity, since it was a great Frenchman, Philippe Pinel, who over a century ago did much to bring the treatment of insanity into the high place it now occupies. Contemporary with him was the great English Quaker, William Luke, who in 1792 established at York the long famous Retreat, a hospital in close sympathy with that at Asfuriyeh.

Where others may have failed, then, the Syrians the world over now have upon them the duty of focussing their attention and interest upon problems which are gaining in importance and which merit con-

certed effort and action. I feel that the greatest difficulty with the Syrians in the past has been insufficient acquaintance with the problems confronting them at home and abroad. For that reason alone they should support any magazine like *The Syrian World* which coordinates thought and action, and expounds and features those problems touching upon the welfare of the race. Therefore in view of the publicity which has now been given to the Lebanon Hospital in your pages, it would be disappointing if the assistance were limited to a single ward especially when there are probably patriotic individuals who would be glad to personally donate a ward privately, if only the claims are made sufficiently clear to them. I have nowhere else heard of such a good ward being able to be erected and furnished for the very small sum of £3000. But one feels that the Syrians abroad will miss no occasion of showing that they will not let such opportunities pass by without acquitting themselves honourably.

C. Assid Corban, M. B., Ch. B.
Kihikihi, New Zealand,

ARABIC THEMES IN WESTERN MUSIC

Mozart and Beethoven recognized
their inherent beauty and dignity.

Editor, *The Syrian World*:

The very interesting article contributed by Dr. K. A. Bishara to a former issue of "*The Syrian World*" impressed me as being decidedly opportune during the present period of racial agitation. The article further emphasizes the incalculable influence the Arabic-speaking world has had in the formation of what is ambiguously designated the

"Western Civilization."

Dr. Bishara observed that Mozart and Beethoven were among the first great musicians who intuitively recognized the inherent beauty and dignity of Arabic musical themes. No nationalistic school of music has been able to escape the subtle fascination of oriental melody. The Russian school, which is preeminently oriental in tendency, is prominently represented by the composer Rimsky-Korsakov, who employs oriental themes in his "*Scheherazade*" symphonic suite. The Norwegian school is represented by Grieg with his "*Peer Gynt*" suite; the French school contributed "*Samson et Dalila*" by Saint-Saens, and the Spanish and Italian schools are likewise represented.

In the classical works of Beethoven, specifically where the minor signatures are employed, we are frequently arrested by measures in which Arabic themes are almost exclusively developed. In the hands of this great genius the simple melodies of Syria and Arabia assume, with their new harmonic embellishments, forms of entrancingly original euphony, making them equal if not superior to other musical systems. And it is in the spirit of admiration and gratitude that I feel, and the Syrian world in general should feel, for the service rendered by this great master, in whom no racial prejudice existed, and who recognized inherent beauty and worth regardless of the source, that I have inscribed the slight but sincere appreciation which is enclosed.

Thomas Asa.

W. Brownsville, Pa.

Editor's Note—A poem by Mr. Asa on Beethoven is published elsewhere in this issue.

Political Developments in Syria

PALESTINE

England has taken a definite stand against the principal demand of the Palestine Arabs looking towards the establishment of representative government, for the prosecution of which they had sent a delegation to London. The refusal of England is based on the claim that such a proposal is incompatible with the requirements of the mandate. The mandate, on the other hand, is an instrument entrusted to England by the League of Nations, and to act contrary to its provisions would be a breach of trust. This England will not undertake to do.

Lord Passfield, the Colonial Secretary, according to a dispatch to the New York Times from London under date of May 14, gave the Grand Mufti and his colleagues of the Palestine-Arab delegation a sweeping rebuff, reaffirming the fidelity of the MacDonald government to the Palestine mandate.

The Arab delegation had arrived in London shortly before the publication of the Shaw commission's report. Among other things, the delegation urged the immediate creation of a Palestine Parliament in which Arabs and Jews would be represented in proportion to their present population. This demand Great Britain refuses to concede, as indicated by the following official statement of the Colonial office:

"The conversations which have taken place in London between members of the Government and the Palestine Arab delegation are now at an end. The delegation has expressed its views on a number of subjects, particularly land, immi-

gration and the grant of a constitution. His Majesty's Government has taken note of its view on these subjects.

"It was pointed out to the delegation that the sweeping constitutional changes demanded by them were wholly unacceptable since they would have rendered it impossible for His Majesty's Government to carry out its obligations under the terms of the mandate. It was made clear that no proposals could be considered which were incompatible with the requirements of the mandate."

The Arab delegation made no attempt to conceal its bitterness at this turn of events. It immediately retaliated by the publication of the following statement:

"We have decided to leave for home with the impression that the Palestine Arab case will not be justly solved by the British Government, with which the Zionists have such great influence as to hinder it from doing justice or from removing injustices in our case. We are convinced that every Arab in Palestine prefers to die in defense of his natural rights and existence than to submit to the oppression inflicted by any measure of coercion. As the Arab and Moslem worlds are our co-partners in Palestine, it is our duty to make them acquainted with the dangerous situation threatening the very existence of their holy country and brother inhabitants."

The general impression in London is that the Palestine situation is now worse than it ever was before. It is plain from the statement

of the Arab delegation that they count on the support of their brother Moslems in India whom England is endeavoring to play against the Hindu followers of Mahatma Gandhi, in the present civil disobedience movement. What success such tactics will have is a matter of conjecture. It is plain however, that neither the Arabs nor the Jews are satisfied, the former because of the denial of their demands and the latter because of the nature of the Shaw report.

That Palestine is facing a new era of political disturbance owing to the recent developments may be inferred from a dispatch to the New York Times from its Jerusalem correspondent dated April 10 which states that Mahatma Gandhi's campaign in India is having a considerable effect upon the political consciousness of the Near East. In Palestine, the correspondent further reports, a new Arab political party called Isteqlal, (meaning independence) intends to imitate Gandhi's methods to some extent and is organizing a procession of youths in cities, towns and villages throughout Palestine similar to Gandhi's march in India.

The Isteqlalists aim thus to revive the movement against Arabs selling their lands to Jews. The youths will be called the "Arab Defense Army," and the party's newspaper the Meraat Elsharq, has already appealed to Arab youths urging participation in the week-long march.

Arab feeling in Palestine is greatly aroused over Prime Minister MacDonald's statement in the House of Commons that Britain does not intend to relinquish her mandate or abrogate the Balfour Declaration.

The Alshura, an Arabic newspaper in Cairo, which is the Palestine Arab Nationalist's organ, has telegraphed to London demanding the Arab political delegation to return as a sign of protest, while other Arab organs declare the delegation ought to return and devote itself to internal activity which has been neglected in the past few years, saying:

"It is impossible to solve the Arab problem in London as long as it remains unsolved in Jerusalem."

New life seems to have been injected in the Palestine Arab cause in America with the arrival in New York, the latter part of April, of a new Palestine-Arab delegation composed of Emir Adel Arslan and Issa Bandak, editor of Sawt Ash-Shaab (Voice of the People). Emir Arslan, head of the delegation, is a brother of Emir Shakib who came to America on a similar mission in 1927. He took active part in the Druze revolt against the French in Syria and chose voluntary exile with Sultan Pasha Atrash in the Arabian desert.

In a public statement which the delegation gave to the Arabic press, they declared that they represented the Central Arab Relief Committee of Jerusalem which is the financial branch of the Central Arab Executive Committee, and that their mission was two-fold: first to collect relief funds, and the second to lay before the Palestine Arabs of America authentic information on conditions in the motherland in the hope of enlisting their interest in the rehabilitation of the country and inducing them to invest in its agricultural development. Purchase of land by the Arabs, they insist, will not only result in considerable financial profit to investors but will

also have considerable effect on the Arab cause politically.

SYRIA

The official view of the Syrian Nationalist Party is that the political situation in the country is growing more alarming. The nation is being driven to desperation by the continued inaction of the French authorities in finding a suitable solution to the present difficulties and the protracted silence of the High Commissioner is interpreted as bearing ominous portent. Nevertheless, the Syrian official stand is that of patient waiting.

The above conclusion is deduced from the statement published in the form of an open letter to the Syrian nation by Hashem Bey El-Atassi, leader of the Syrian Nationalist Party and President of the Constituent Assembly, reporting the result of his conversation with High Commissioner Ponsot upon the latter's return from France. The meeting took place in Beirut on April 11 and El-Atassi's statement was published on the 15th. Throughout the document there runs a feeling of deep disappointment and bitterness but hope is nevertheless manifested in the ultimate success of the cause through the traditional liberalism of France.

The Syrian leader prefaces his statement by an account of the trials under which the country labored during the first eight years of French occupation, and in which there were continued efforts to reach a proper solution of the political problem that would safeguard to the nation its self-respect. The pacific intentions of the Syrians were demonstrated by the meeting of their leaders at Beirut on October

27, 1927, and their resolve to extend the hand of conciliation to the French on an honorable basis.

Later elections were held to the Constituent Assembly in which the Nationalists emerged victors and made a sincere attempt to interpret the will of the nation in formulating the draft of the constitution. Great was their surprise when they were called upon to eliminate the six principal clauses which the French claimed to be objectionable. Then followed the suspension of the Assembly for a period of three months and the growing gravity of the situation attending this troublesome period was such as to tax the nation's utmost patience. This proved conclusively, however, the nation's aptitude to weather political crises inasmuch as they retained their self-control in spite of the increasingly aggravating developments. "We have repeatedly appealed to the nation to be patient and it continually showed admirable response, but we now entertain the gravest fear that its patience will soon be exhausted as a result of repeated disappointments."

The statement further points out that the Syrian nation adhered to its policy of peaceful cooperation in spite of repeated adjournments of the Assembly, hoping the French will in the end act on their professed good faith. This continued until Jan. 11, 1929, when the High Commissioner offered the long awaited solution which proved only a means for the annulment of the whole constitution in that it suggested deferring action on the six objectionable clauses until after the enactment of treaty relations between France and Syria. Still the Syrians showed patience and M. Ponsot again sailed for France and

the Syrians awaited his return with high hopes. But weeks and months passed without his undertaking a move for the solution of the problem. Meanwhile the Executive Bureau of the Constituent Assembly continued functioning within the rights invested in it by the Assembly, and by this authority addressed the High Commissioner suggesting a conference. This took place in Beirut on April 11, and although it lasted over an hour all that could be drawn out of the High Commissioner was the indefinite promise of "undertaking soon a definite solution of the problem based on the same liberal attitude characterizing his former policy."

At this point El-Atassi appeals to the nation for further patience and for the maintenance of the spirit of solidarity which alone is a guarantee of ultimate success. "The history of nations is replete with object lessons. No weakness can overcome a nation unless that nation becomes divided upon itself. The greatest crisis in the life of any nation is when it gives itself up to internal quarrels and dissensions and thereby lays itself open to the designs of the foreigner. I would exhort you to maintain your united front as this is your best guarantee of repelling the aggressor. This in your hands is the most effective weapon against force. For a solid union I appeal to you, as well as for rising above personal rancor which might stand in the way of such union. The ground of your country soaked with the blood of your martyrs cries loud to you to be solidly united."

The French High Commissariat maintained its habitual silence in the face of these developments and the only unconfirmed rumor ap-

pearing in the press is that M. Ponsot is still studying the problem. M. Ponsot paid a visit to Damascus after his conference with the Syrian Nationalist leader but met there only French officials. A current report is that he plans another visit to Paris soon for a further conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There is now in Syria a growing tendency for joining the proposed Arab federation under the leadership of King Ibn Saoud. Political observers claim to see in this orientation of Syrian public opinion a triumph of English diplomacy into the hands of which the French are playing unwittingly. England is now at peace with the Arab elements and if Syria were to be drawn into an Arab federation France would find herself facing a new problem which would make her position in the East extremely untenable.

LEBANON

The cabinet of August Pasha Adib, formed March 25, submitted its program to the Legislative Assembly on April 5 and was accorded a vote of confidence. The same reform plans laid down by the Eddy cabinet were adhered to with the exception of those objectionable clauses which caused the latter's downfall, especially those touching on education. A new and serious development in Lebanon is the advocacy by the Moslem element of a change in the relations between Lebanon and France to take the form now existing between Iraq and England. This movement is expected to meet with little success, but it will tend to demonstrate to the mandatory power the disastrous effects of its continued policy of temporization.

About Syria and Syrians

SYRIAN ELECTED REPUBLICAN LEADER

By the unanimous vote of the 54 members of the Republican Assembly District Committee of Brooklyn present George C. Dagher was elected executive member of the First Assembly District at a meeting held on May 7, according to the report of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and other metropolitan newspapers.

Mr. Dagher was elected to succeed the late leader D. Harry Ralston who died April 4.

The New York papers give long accounts of the political and military careers of Mr. Dagher who has been a resident of the district and active in politics for twenty-five years and who saw service during the war in an artillery regiment.

The New York Syrian papers hail the election of Mr. Dagher to this important post of leadership as marking the first important success of a Syrian in national politics. The American-Syrian Federation of Brooklyn, of which Mr. Dagher is a director, plans a dinner in his honor to be given at the Elks Club early in June.

Mr. Dagher is an example of the best type of Syrian-Americans. He has served his country by enlistment during the war and is most active in serving it in politics in times of peace. During his long political career his character has been above reproach, and it was through his sterling qualities that he was elevated to the post of leadership of his important district without contest.

Mr. Dagher makes no attempt to

conceal the fact of his Syrian extraction. His affiliation with the American-Syrian Federation and his sustained interest in all Syrian public activities speak eloquently for his pride in his racial descent. It is men such as he who through sheer personal ability and merit gain the respect of the American public both for themselves and for their race.

SYRIAN WOMAN LAWYER RECEIVES APPOINTMENT

Miss Emily Ferris, the only Syrian woman lawyer in New York, was appointed Deputy Attorney General for the State of New York to take office on May 1. She is to be in charge of incompetency proceedings.

Miss Ferris has attained rapid success in her chosen career. Having gained admission to the bar in Nebraska her native State, in 1926, she moved to New York the following year and in the same year was admitted to the bar in the latter state. She is a sister of the well-known Syrian New York lawyer Joseph W. Ferris.

SYRIAN PRINCESS LECTURES ON SYRIA

Emira Najla Bellamah of Montreal, Canada, has been giving a series of lectures on Syria at the invitation of the Oriental Club of McGill University of Montreal.

Emira Bellamah came to America only a few years ago to join her

brother who is engaged in business in Montreal. She knew very little of English, although she had been engaged for a considerable time in editorial work in the mother country. Her rapid mastery of the language denotes the degree of her intelligence and application. The gifted princess is to be congratulated on her splendid efforts in bringing about a better knowledge of her mother country to the people of Canada.

SILVER JUBILEE OF A MARONITE PRIEST

Over one hundred and fifty guests met at the Hotel Statler in Boston on Sunday, April 27, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of Chor-Bishop Stephen El-Douaihy to the priesthood. Among the celebrants were delegations from many distant cities.

Elias F. Shamon, President of the Jubilee Association, was toastmaster. Speakers included Miss Labeebee A. J. Hanna, "An appreciation of Monsignor Douaihy" followed by a poem, "Planted in Lebanon"; Ex-Congressman Joseph A. Conry, former Ambassador to Russia; Rev. Michael Saab; District Attorney William J. Foley; Monsignor Abouzaid; Mrs. Mary Ahwaji; George Faour; Mirshed Abdo; Joseph Reesha and Josepn J. Sarofeen.

Mgr. Douaihy was presented with a gold purse which he immediately pledged for the erection of a new church and school.

In the course of his speech the Hon. S. A. Conry said: "You should not bend your knee to any. Your race is as good as any of the others. The teachings of your people have been granted by parents who de-

serve the greatest amount of respect. **Developing fiction can not equal the work of your country.**"

"The best sailors, from Tyre," he continued, "had accomplishments which have never been surpassed. The courage and bravery of the men and the beauty of the women have been unequaled by secular or religious history."

"The Irish have the greatest affection for you. We are related. The Irish came from there originally—the Phoenicians for old Erin. From them the Irish descended."

"On behalf of His Honor Mayor Curley, I re-welcome you here for a strong building of the commonwealth."

District Attorney Foley said, "I can honestly and sincerely say that your people have given me less trouble than any other people, and I am proud of you."

NEW MILLION-DOLLAR BANK IN SYRIA

The Arabic press of Beirut announces definitely the success of Mr. Paul Knabenshu, former American consul in Beirut and American consul in Jerusalem, in the organization of a Syrian-American bank with a capitalization of \$1,000,000.

Mr. Knabenshu had conceived the idea of the bank when he was still in Beirut, but owing to his transfer was unable to complete the details.

The capital stock of the bank is divided into twenty thousand shares of \$50.00 each, fifty per cent. of which is reserved for American subscribers, forty for Syrians and Lebanese and ten for French.

The Syrian-Lebanese quota was over-subscribed immediately the shares were offered.

Syrian papers further announce that Mr. Knabenshu has sailed for the United States to raise the necessary American quota. Mr. J. P. Morgan is said to have consented to act as chairman of the Board of Directors.

Readers of The Syrian World can lend their co-operation to the cause of better understanding between the Syrians and other races by inducing their friends to tune in on the coming talk of the editor which is designed to show the Syrians in their proper light.

RIHANI FETED

BY COUNTRYMEN

A correspondent in Los Angeles writes that while in that city on his Western lecture tour, our noted author and traveler Ameen Rihani was extended a banquet by the Syrian and Lebanese community at the Hotel Roosevelt at which over 150 were present.

George A. Fuleihan of Hollywood was master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers who included Charles Andrews, P. A. Be Hennesy, M. K. Doumani, Dr. A. S. Abdel Nur, Charles Cressaty, S. K. Karam, Miss Helen Gastine and Miss Margaret Andrews.

SYRIAN JUNIOR LEAGUE

GIVES DINNER-DANCE

The Syrian Junior League of New York gave a dinner-dance on the roof garden of the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn on May 10 which was attended by 350 guests.

The Brooklyn department store of Fredrick Loeser conducted the fashion parade held in conjunction with the affair.

Miss Adele Macsoud, President of the League, made a statement on the organization's activities. The speakers of the evening were William Catzefflis and Assad Milkie.

COMING RADIO TALK

BY S. W. EDITOR

The editor of The Syrian World will speak over station WPCH in New York City, at 4 P. M., on Sunday, June 8, on the subject of Syrians in New York City and the United States. The program will be under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Reconciliation Trips.

Although this will be the second time the editor will broadcast under the auspices of the above named organizations, he has already given many radio talks on Syria and the Syrians since his return last year from Syria.

SYRIAN SOCIETY HOLDS

ELECTION AND DANCE

The Syrian Young Men's Society of Los Angeles, Cal., held its annual meeting for the election of officers for the season 1930-31, the successful ticket being as follows: Leon Saliba, President; Leo Saad, Vice-President; Samuel Mamey, Secretary; Elias Baker, Treasurer.

Previous to the induction of the new regime, the society gave a dance on April 30 at the Diana Studio Ballroom which was attended by about five hundred of the best element of the Syrian community. Albert Dager acted as master of ceremonies for the evening and introduced both the retiring and incoming officers.

LEBANESE SCIENTIST

AIDED IN WORK

We are glad to copy from "Science," the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the following announcement appearing in its issue of April 25:

"The Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made an appropriation of \$500 to the department of bacteriology of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester at Rochester, N. Y., for research on chemotherapy in tuberculosis. The grant is to aid the work of Dr. George Knaysi, of the New York State College of Agriculture, who has been granted leave of absence by Cornell University and will conduct his experiments at the University of Rochester."

Dr. Knaysi plans a visit to Syria this summer and will sail early in June.

SYRIAN GIRL WINS

POPULARITY CONTEST

The Elk City Daily News of Elk City, Oklahoma, announces in its issue of April 5 that Miss Vaughncille Joseph and her co-worker, Miss Bessie Shadid, have won the beauty and popularity contest conducted by the leading mercantile establishments of Elk City. The winners will accompany the Beauty Queens of fifteen other cities of Oklahoma on an eighteen-day tour of the Western part of the United States. The whole party is to consist of thirty-two women who will travel in a private pullman car.

Bessie is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. M. Shadid of Elk City. Miss Joseph is a music teacher and a

studio director of the radio broadcasting station KGMP. Both young ladies are eighteen years of age and graduates of high school.

SYRIAN BOY WINS

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Lake Charles American-Press of April 11 publishes on its first page a picture of Edward L. Shaheen with the announcement that he had won the State oratorical contest of Louisiana and was to go to Kansas City to enter the zone contest to be held sometime in May.

Edward is a Syrian boy of nineteen who has been in this country not over ten years and whose academic career has been one of extraordinary success. He is the son of Louis Shaheen Baaclini of Bzebdin, Lebanon.

SIX BROTHERS

IN ONE SCHOOL

The American University of Beirut is perhaps the only educational institution in the world that can claim the distinction of having six brothers attending its classes at the same time. They are the sons of Dr. Dawud Suleiman Bulus who graduated from the University in 1905. The boys range in age from six to sixteen, and accommodations for all are provided in the university.

Dr. Bulus has held many important medical posts in the Near East and was a captain in the medical corps of the Egyptian army. He is now chief of the Haifa Hospital.

The delay attending the publication of this issue permits reporting news for a part of May.

**SOUND PICTURES AROUSE
INTEREST IN SYRIA**

By Vice Consul D. F. McGonigal,
Beirut.

(From Commerce Reports)

The first talking pictures to be shown in Syria were exhibited on February 12, 1930, at a theater in Beirut. The American sound system was used. The program consisted of an animated cartoon, a one-reel comedy, a news reel and an American feature picture starring a famous French actor. All were talking films and all were in English with the exception of a few songs and monologues in French.

The program aroused the enthusiasm of the local public and there seemed to be little objection to the fact that the dialogue was in English. The theater, which seats about 700, doubled its prices, increased the number of its weekly performances from 11 to 21, and extended the showing of the program from 1 to 2 weeks. The average weekly receipts of the theater when showing silent pictures is understood to have been about \$375, whereas the gross receipts for the first week of the talking picture is said to have been \$3,307 and \$1,575 the second week. The cost of the program for the two weeks is reported to have been about \$1,000.

Other theater owners have been impressed by the success of the talking-film exhibition and are considering the installation of sound equipment.

The local censorship law provides for the showing of all pictures at the French High Commission but as the official projection hall is not equipped to handle sound pictures, the Beirut exhibitors arranged to have the censors come to their thea-

ter for the required examination. Although no new official rulings have been announced, it is understood by the exhibitors that a sound picture found unsuitable will be rejected as a whole and no attempt will be made to modify it in any way, because of the technical difficulties involved.

It is too early to predict the effect of the introduction of sound pictures into Syria on the market for silent pictures, but it would appear that the demand for silent pictures will continue active for some time to come.

SYRIA INVADED BY LOCUSTS

In spite of all efforts to check their advance, the locusts are making considerable headway in their invasion of Syria and Lebanon. The latest reports indicate that swarms of the pests have appeared in the vicinity of Beirut. In the district of Damascus they have invaded the Ghouta, after having overrun the plains of Hauran and Jebel Druze. Further north they have reached the outskirts of Aleppo.

The governments of all mandated countries are taking the most energetic measures to destroy the eggs before hatching in an effort to save the crops.

REVIVING A DEAD**SYRIAN CITY**

The Syrian government is actively engaged in rebuilding the famous city of Palmyra, once the capital of Queen Zenobia who for a time successfully challenged the authority of Rome. Already 100 lots have been awarded settlers and 45 houses built. The highway leading to Damascus is being paved and the debris of the old native houses removed from within the enclosure of the Great Temple.

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION
of The Syrian World, published monthly at New York, N. Y., Apr. 1st, 1930**

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK.**

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Salloum A. Mokarzel, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of The Syrian World, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1921, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Name of—	Post office address—
Publisher, Salloum A. Mokarzel,	104 Greenwich Street.
Editor, Salloum A. Mokarzel,	104 Greenwich Street.
Managing Editor, Salloum A. Mokarzel	104 Greenwich Street.
Business Managers, Salloum A. Mokarzel,	104 Greenwich Street.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent. or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Salloum A. Mokarzel, 104 Greenwich Street.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is.
(This information is required from daily publications only.)

S. A. Mokarzel.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of April, 1930.

[SEAL]

EDNA M. HUCKER,

(My commission expires March 30, 1932.)