

# Egypt and the Sudan.

By P. Kitaigorodsky.

Several conflicts have broken out in various parts of Upper Egypt and the Sudan. In Khartum the Students in the Egyptian military school have revolted. At Atbara, a demonstration against the occupation of the Sudan by the English besieged the barracks of the Egyptian railway troops who fired upon the crowd. At Port Sudan great anti-British demonstrations took place. British troops and steamers arrived. The population of Alexandria and Cairo are giving strong expression to their sympathy with the Sudanese who, they hope, will succeed in ridding themselves of the English occupation. These nationalist outbreaks are occurring precisely at the moment when the Premier of independent Egypt, Zaglul Pasha, is negotiating in London with Ramsay MacDonald regarding the Sudan and various other disputed questions: the defence of Egypt against any attack, the interests of foreigners in Egypt, the control of the Suez Canal.

On the occasion of the proclamation of the "Independence of Egypt" the English government postponed the solution of these four questions. But after his return from exile, Zaglul Pasha did not fail to claim the Sudan as an integral part of Egypt.

The Sudan is of vital importance to Egypt. The Nile traverses the Sudan before reaching Egypt. The English regime in

the Sudan could, at any moment, transform the Egyptian valley of the Nile into a desert.

The English have invested capital to the amount of 40,000 pound sterling in irrigation works and cotton planting. The firm of Asquith & Co. (of the leader of the Liberal Party) last year received concessions from the government for the development of cotton plantations. In addition to the strategical interest English imperialism has the greatest economic interest in the possession of the Sudan.

The Egyptian nationalist movement is led by the bourgeois party of Zaglul Pasha, a pronounced opponent of the armed uprising against the English occupation, who has succeeded in obtaining, by means of negotiations and pressure, the apparent "independence" of Egypt. The party of Zaglul is prepared for every compromise: abroad with London, at home with the feudal aristocracy and the reactionary elements. They are coquetting with the leader of the landowners, Adly Pasha, and are persecuting the communists and the revolutionary nationalists of Hisb-el-Vatani. Zaglul Pasha has lost the sympathy of the workers and the intellectuals by his accommodating attitude towards the enemies of Egypt. Three months ago an attempt was made upon his life by a student.

In less than a year the Zaglulists, who had been returned by the people to the Constituent Assembly by an enormous majority, have thoroughly discredited themselves in the eyes of the workers. "Ever since the days of the ancient Pharaoh Cheops, the builder of the great pyramid, the Egyptian people have always been a model of docility", wrote the *Egyptian Gazette* on the 24th of July. But a new spirit is revealing itself. The Egyptian workers have occupied the factories of Alexandria. Zaglul Pasha has dissolved their trade unions, arrested their leaders, expelled suspected foreigners and announced that he will deal ruthlessly with those who foment trouble and with the enemies of private property.

During this time, England maintains garrisons at all strategic points in "independent" Egypt, in the Sudan and in Suez. What does Zaglul Pasha and his national government oppose to this? Diplomacy. Instead of relying upon the support of the active forces of the country, upon the people, his reactionary policy is dividing Egypt into rich and poor, the former allied with foreign imperialism.

Zaglul Pasha on his way to London paid a visit to Paris. The French Foreign Office is not disinterested in the fate of Suez and is not indifferent to any diplomatic intrigue. Of this the Egyptian Premier is quite aware. Zaglul Pasha has right on his side in the Sudan affair; but he suppresses the popular forces which are prepared to take action. Nevertheless they furnish him with a weapon of extortion.

The organ of the Kemalists of Constantinople, "Hevi" published in March of this year a characteristic appreciation of the situation in Egypt. "The independence of Egypt", it wrote, "has not yet come to life. Egypt must first free herself from her king. Then drive the English into the sea. She will not succeed by means of mere demonstrations. In order to establish a real independence it is necessary that she learns how to shed her blood and to die."

---