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A weekly journal of Agriculture and commerce

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CYPRUS

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

No. 1

Larnaca Thursday 29 August 1878

Price 3 Pence.

His Excellency General Sir Garnet Wolseley and Staff moved from the residence they occupied in town and are encamped about a mile off close to the Monastery. A Portion of which is used as Government offices.

The Civil Commissioner Colonel Biddulph with his staff, occupy the Government House and are diligently engaged in arranging the various details of the new Government of this Province.

We understand that most of the present Zaptiehs will be retained in service and that they are being reorganized by Major-General Biddulph who has been appointed Chief of Police for the whole island, with Captain de Lancey as assistant Commissioner.

The Municipality of Larnaca have been working hard for the last month, and already the fruits of their work are to be seen, we shall publish in our next edition a list of the rules and regulations which have been issued for sanitary and other requirements, the orders are all just and equitable and we trust that all will join heartily in carrying them out.

On Sunday the 23rd instant all the convicts lately imprisoned at Nicosia were transported to Kerinia, they numbered 270 and were escorted two thirds of the way by a company of Goochkas under Captain Macdonald and for the remainder by a company of the 4th Highlanders the prisoners were divided into companies of about 60 men each and

these were each in charge of an English officer among whom were to be seen Lord Gifford Colonel Baker Russell G.B. and Captain de Lancey assistant commissioner of Police at Nicosia, on arrival at Kerinia the Prisoners were placed in the Fortress where they will remain until the arrival of a Turkish man of war which will convey them to the coast of Syria. Although all these prisoners were desperate characters they behaved remarkably well on their march not one giving the least trouble, and strange to say they bore the fatigue much better than the soldiers. They are nearly all Mussulmans.

For perhaps the first time in the history of the world, the people of Cyprus are able to say we are free. Our history is one long chapter of occupations, by almost all the powers, of three quarters of the Globe. Now we are called upon to obey the laws, and share the benefits, of the Government of a great maritime power. A power, not only able to utilize the advantages of our geographical position, but fully prepared to defend the same. It has long been the boast of Englishmen, that no slave can tread on British soil; and once the British Flag was hoisted on this island we felt that a new era had opened for us. Any impartial observer who visits this island, must, we think admit, that hitherto we have had little or no chance. Our various Governments have offered us no sort of example of progress. Cyprus, from time immemorial, has seemed to us to be regarded as some sort of state farm, the stewards of which did their utmost to secure the richest harvest, with the least possible outlay. Our past history seems to have deprived our ancestors of all hope. Whatever may have been their faults or their virtues, we venture to think that few impartial judges can be surprised to find, that generation after generation, has come and gone simply content with existence, leaving nothing behind them. That generation has succeeded generation, apparently without any kind of ambition, except to follow in the steps of their fathers. Those who have enjoyed the order, the security, and the protection of a western government, might find it hard to understand the position from which we have lately emerged. Their knowledge of order, law and equity, of the rights of all true and loyal subjects, might have enabled them to battle for a time

against misrule and chaos; but those who have no experience of such benefits may, we think, be pardoned if with hardly any intercourse with the world, they had not the heart, to kick against the pricks. But we do not wish to refer to the past. We frankly admit that the peasant and peasant farmers of this island, both Turk, and Christian, have been co-sufferers. And that now, all wise Cypriots, will consent to bury the hatchet. There are warlike tribes who have ridiculed us for our want of courage. Portions of the Ottoman Empire have revolted against their rulers: some have been successful in throwing off the yoke; but despite their success, few have succeeded in greatly bettering their position. At present we can show little or nothing to deserve our good fortune: but the future is before us. It will now be for the people to take a lesson from the past, to bear in mind that it is quite as easy to abuse the benefits of a good government as it was for our late rulers to neglect the interests of their subjects. We have complained that we have hitherto been considered as a sort of farm, from which our rulers drew all they could, giving us next to nothing in return. It will now be the duty of everyone, Turk and Christian alike to take care that our new Government should not find that we wish to follow that example; taking to ourselves all the benefits of the new regime giving nothing in return. It is the burden duty of every educated Cypriot now to work with all his energy, to educate his neighbours. Sir Garnet Wolseley has already shown us that it is his earnest desire that the people of this island, without distinction of race or creed, should as far as possible participate in its Government. Now, it is this privilege of self-Government which is the very soul of British prosperity. Out in the East we talk sometimes of republics, and fancy that they are the beau-ideal of liberty; but the fact is, that the English system of self Government, contains far more true liberty than that of any Government in the world. The people from the poorest class are entrusted with a portion of the Government: they serve a kind of apprenticeship; beginning as members of some small municipality; those who show real ability soon become intrusted with some more important post. They thus obtain from actual practice a real experience of the art of Government. They know the nature and importance of the work; and they use that knowledge in selecting as their representatives in Parliament, the best men. Throughout the world, we always find, that it is those who are most ignorant of even the rudiments of Government, who consider themselves the most suited for the very highest posts in the land. It is against this class of amateur politicians we most earnestly warn our countrymen to guard. We have unfortunately still among us some profes-

sional agitators, who will do their utmost to sow seeds of discontent. And induce the people perpetually to seek for more and more unreasonable concessions. Those who are wise will pause before they give ear to these people; watch them, and it will usually be found that they have no sort of idea of self-government. Their own families and households are usually in disorder: they cannot govern even the few things placed under their charge. They are too arrogant to work, and if poor, as is usually the case, ask the world to believe they are patriots and martyrs, but in fact they are neither one, nor the other. They wish to teach an art, of which they are perfectly ignorant. They have no sound interest in the State; its welfare or its ruin would affect them but little. In fact, they are like many birds of prey who live upon the wrecks of others. We desire to inaugurate this journal, (which we believe to be the first ever published in this Island) with the purest good council. The free press is a powerful arm. It will always be our most earnest desire to use it as an agent of peace and good will. This Island must now be considered as a new province. For some time to come we shall have no politics to discuss. We shall do our utmost to show the world the various enterprises which in this Island may deserve the attention of Capitalists. These are the visitors we require. They are, however, a class who are no friends of Politicians; therefore for the present, let us devote our attention to Agriculture and Commerce.

Although Cyprus has enjoyed little more than a month of English protection, a wonderful change has already taken place. At the port of Larnaca, restaurants, Inns, ship-chandlers, and Stores of every description have sprung up like magic. There has been a perfect race, as to which should open first.

These things are however of only minor importance. There is in this island a field for greater enterprise. Its agricultural resources require immediate attention. The land commission, which is now about to commence its labours, will soon have settled all disputed titles; and farmers will then have substantial security to offer. Hitherto the mode in which the taxes were levied, so hampered every kind of agricultural enterprise, that land owners were forced to be content, with, for the most part, grain crops which suffered the least from the extortion and oppression of the tax-farmer. There are however many crops more suited to the climate, which will pay much better; such as cotton and grapes. But these require capital, for which the first two or three years they will make no return. There is therefore a most urgent need, of a good sound Agricultural Bank; such an Institution,

if it could enjoy some sort of charter from the Government, would obtain the confidence of all. At present there are plenty of usurers in the island, who have always been ready to make advances; but farmers, who have accepted their offers, usually found themselves in the end, so completely entangled that their land was soon lost to them: and if they were permitted to retain possession it was simply as tenants. Then again, most of these usurers, were farmers of the taxes, and used their twofold powers over their debtor, in such a mode, that now, landholders are afraid to borrow, except in cases of the most dire necessity. It will take time to obtain their confidence. But a sound Bank, will soon have abundant field for safe investment. We would also suggest, that such an institution, would do well, to possess a large collection of good steam machinery. The eastern portion of the island consists of one great plain, of rich corn growing land, which is most singularly adapted for steam agriculture; and a company, who would be prepared, as in America, to contract to till and sow this land, and reap the harvest, for a fixed sum per acre, would no doubt meet with great success.

Already farmers are beginning to fear, that farm labourers will be scarce for the future. The labour on the new roads, and other public works, will make a great drain upon the present labouring population, and raise the wages of those who remain on the farms. From what we can gather from the various farmers, they would be well satisfied to see steam agriculture introduced. There is no prejudice against it. In fact, one large landholder, bought some steam machinery some years since, and his only complaint was, that when it got out of order, there was no one on the island who could repair it. Skilled mechanics of any sort, have been very scarce out here, although the natives are intelligent workmen when taught.

We understand that a London Firm of Tourist Agents, contemplate arranging for an excursion to this island, during the Autumn; and we are confident, that when English visitors, have once become acquainted with this place, it will soon be largely patronized by those on their way to and from Syria. There are spots in the mountain portion of this island, quite equal to any part of Switzerland; but we must warn visitors, that, for the present, they will have to put up with very rough accommodation. We think, that if some Swiss, or German company, would erect a cordon of small Hotels at different stations round this island, it would prove a most lucrative investment. Land, in those mountain parts, is very cheap, as also is labour and building materials. The thousands of date-palms which flourish all over the island, are sufficient proof of the mildness of the winter climate. The charge of unhealthiness, which is laid against it, is we are assured most unfounded and the Doctors in charge of the troops, and fleet, are now convinced, that the men who have been invalided, are only victims to great exposure to the sun.

In our future editions we shall publish a price list of the principal imports and Exports and give a fair idea of the quantities now in stock also a list of all ships that arrive and sail we have also arranged to receive Reuters Telegrams which we purpose publishing daily in a separate sheet.

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Le 1^{er} départ d'Alexandrie pour Larnaca aura lieu suivant l'itineraire ci-après le 10 Août.

SAVOIR

ARRIVEES

DÉPARTS

Alexandrie (1)	Lundi 1. b. Mat	Samedi 4 hrs Soir	10	Août
Larnaca	Mercredi 6. b. M.	Mardi 6 b. S	13	id
Beyrouth	Jeudi 6. b. M.	6 b. S	14	id
Beyrouth (2)	Vendredi 6. b. M.	Samedi 6 b. S	17	id
Larnaca	Lundi 3. b. M.		19	id

- (1) En correspondance avec le bateau de la ligne d'Egypte venant de MARSEILLE
- (2) id Avec le bateau de la ligne Circulaire Avenant de SMYRNE et du nord de la SYRIE.
- (3) id Avec le bateau de la ligne Circulaire A partant d'ALEXANDRIE pour MARSEILLE.

Pour tous renseignements s'adresser au représentant de la Compagnie à Larnaca.

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Thursday 29 August 1878.