IN THE COLONIES

The Dictatorship of the Bankers in Egypt.

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

The Zivar Pasha Government has been at the helm in Egypt for ten months. Having been put in its present position by the power of the English bayonets, which drove out Zaghlul Pasha, and supported by them alone, the Zivar Government is merely a pseudo-government for English rule in Egypt. The English Government, in all confidence, gives the widest pseudo-autonomy to this handful of Egyptian feudalists and bankers who support it, and especially to the decorated and unpopular King Fuad. The English Government is well aware of the fact that Zivar and the bankers are much more closely connected with English bank capital than with the Egyptian people, and that for this group of parasites English imperialism in Egypt is not only a question of their political power but also a purely economic question of obtaining for themselves the utmost possibility of exploitation and profit. As long as Fuad and Zivar rule in Egypt, the Egyptian constitution, jurisdiction, civil service, embassies, consulates, diplomatic representatives and missions abroad are in better hands from the English point of view than if all these offices were occupied by English officials. A transgression of the pseudo-autonomy is scanty entertainment for the English. English foreign power could hardly of itself, in its own name, commit so many atrocities, so many acts of oppression as the "native Government" is guilty of without scumble. There is an ever present danger that Zivar's servile government might, in its unlimited fear of the masses in the countryside and in the cities, for revenge against the revolutionary parties, overstep the bounds which are "absolutely necessary" for the preservation of peace and order.

These bounds have been seriously threatened for a long time; Zivar drove the Egyptian Parliament asunder at a moment's notice for no other reason than because, in spite of unprecedented terror, had been worsted by Zaghlul's in the election campaign. Zivar has passed a number of laws gagging the Press, which make Press lawsuits a daily occurrence in Egypt and destroy all free expression of opinion. Zivar has worked out a rascally franchise law according to which 60% of the broad masses of the people are excluded from active voting, among them the broad masses of the rural population and the workers and students in towns with revolutionary tendencies.

By means of provocation and provocative agents, Zivar had seven young Egyptians, members of a revolutionary organization, condemned for the assassination of the English Sirdar Stack Lee, and did not rest until, in spite of the protests of the whole country, they had been executed. Zivar has introduced harder conditions into the regime for political prisoners. He alone is responsible for the martyr's death of Anton Maroun who died in consequence of a hunger strike which he had declared in protest against the harder conditions of the prison regime. At Zivar's instigation juvenile members of the national revolutionary Zaghlulist party have been arrested wholesale, and young students have been condemned to six months' penal servitude for distributing manifestoes.

With the aid of the police and the military, Zivar suppressed all wages movements of the workers, for instance the strike of the coal-workers in Alexandria and of the fishermen in Damietta. Zivar ordered that unusual severity should be exercised in the collection of the agricultural taxes, which has brought the Egyptian small peasantry to the brink of destruction. Zivar, using once more his method of employing provocative agents, has prepared a great communist trial, in which, according to the charge which has just been published, the accused come under nine paragraphs of the criminal law, for terrorism, plans of assassination (1), violation of the military laws, violation of the population to insurrection, high treason etc., all crimes which are punishable with ten to fifteen years penal servitude. It was Zivar who, with ferocious brutality carried out raids against foreign, especially Russian subjects and threw whole families into the streets for mere tramps, for ill-treated and forcibly deported on perfectly unfounded and fictitious accusations.

The English appreciate to the full the services of their private bandit. On the occasion of his last stay in London, Zivar had honours and invitations showered upon him.
And, still more important, Zivar in common with other Egyptian finance magnates has made brilliant agreements in
Lancashire this year. Whilst on the one hand the high taxes in
the country compel the peasant to sell his cotton at ridiculously
low prices, the Anglo-Egyptian banks on the other hand keep
the price of cotton as high as possible, thus making fabulous
profits. During this year no less than 75,000 bales of cotton,
20,000 more than last year, were imported to the account of the

This explains the fact that banking circles are so well satis-
fied with the Zivar Government. At the same time however it
explains the deep dissatisfaction of the broad masses of the people,
of the exploited peasants and workers, of the aspiring intelli-
gence which has been in the treasury and of the boobs belled off in
the Egyptian bourgeoisie who see their interests in the independent
development of Egypt and who regard the dictatorship of Zivar
and the banks as the greatest obstacle to development.

The exasperation of all the strata of the people mentioned is directed
not only against the Zivar Government but, beyond it, against the
autocratic King, and it was without doubt this mood of the
people which was at the bottom of the last ministerial crisis which
recently broke out.

II.

The Zivar Pasha Ministry was in form a coalition of two
parties. Apart from the so-called United Party ("Itehad"), the party of the King, the feudalists and the bankers, which was only
founded in 1924 with the specific object of supporting the Zivar
Government and establishing its authority among the people,
through the offices of the Liberal Constitutional Party, the Zivar
Government had in the ministerial office im-
C
It the latter is the party which was entirely discredited by its
relationship with the English in the years 1919 — 1923, and which
disappeared completely from the horizon during Zaghlul Pasha's short
Government, the party which was very poorly represented in the first Egyptian Parliament. It also represents a section of the large bourgeoisie (that with liberal tendencies) and, in its fundamental principles, especially as regards such
problems as England, the Soudan, the fight against revolutionary
currents, hardly differs from the Itehadists.

At the time of Zaghlul's fall, the "Liberal Constitutional Part-
y" seized the favourable opportunity of taking part once more in
the Government and, during the whole time has obediently
followed the policy of the Itehadists. From time to time it
attempted to exercise a moderating influence on the Itehadist
dictatorship, in order at least to keep up appearances (thus for
instance it tried to keep Parliament alive in some form or other,
to publish the law against gambling, etc.). The Itehadists on the contrary — especially King Fuad and Naci
Pasha, the President of the Itehad party — never desisted from
their efforts to drive out the Coalition Party and to seize the sole
power. A favourable opportunity was offered by a conflict within
the Itehadists, which, though originally insignificant, led to
a Cabinet crisis.

One of the professors of the religious university "El Ashar"
had published a book in which he suggested certain reforms in
Islam and the abolition of the Caliphate. The college of
professors of the University thereupon removed him from his
office. The Minister of Justice of the Zivar Cabinet however, who
was at the same time President of the Liberal Constitutional Party,
declined to endorse the verdict. The Itehadists made the best of
this, and the Minister who had acted so arbitrarily was dismissed
by royal decree without further ceremony. The two other members of the Itehadist bloc denouncignations and a motion joined by Ismail Sidky Pasha, the Minister for Home Affairs in
the Zivar Cabinet who was actually its most capable and ener-
ggetic minister, but who was not prepared to recognise the Ite-
had dictatorship.

Zivar Pasha, who had not yet returned from his foreign tra-
vels, undertook the reconstruction of the Cabinet by telegram. The
Ministers who had resigned were replaced by officials of the
Itehad party and the King confirmed the new list without ques-
tioning it.

To outward appearances, the Ministerial crisis seems set-
Settled. The whole Egyptian Press however as well as the leading
English papers regard the new Cabinet as being very unstable.
It seems, it is true, very unlikely that the combination spoken of
by some papers, according to which the Liberal Constitutional
Ministers who were expelled from the Government, will try to
join the Right wing of the Zaghlul party will come about, as the
fundamental differences between the two parties are too deep-
rooted. It is however probable that the Liberal Constitutionalists
will in future be in opposition to the Cabinet. Already they are
demanding that the expulsion of government which has so far
officially supported the propaganda of the Itehad Party, should
hold a strictly neutral attitude in the party struggle. They
maintain, and in this they have the masses of the people behind them,
that the expulsion of the Liberal Constitutional Party from the
Cabinet was carried out with the consent of Mr. Neville Hen-
sen, the Representative of the English High Commissioner in
Cairo, and that his approval was asked before that of the King.
For the English on the other hand, it is not pleasant to support
the dictatorship of a single group of their bayonets, and they do not
wish to bring things to a head. This accounts for the tremen-
dous pressure of the English Press to Zivar, to return to Egypt and to
re-establish contact with the Anglophile elements which share his
views, putting personal or party ambitions into the background.
The present Ministerial crisis may therefore be regarded as the
beginning of new political complications in Egypt. Even
though at the moment it represents the beginning of a still more
cruel reactionary dictatorship, it shows anyhow that the bour-
geous groups will necessarily devour one another. The popular
movement however is only waiting for the right moment in which, in
deliance of all measures of oppression, it will break forth and
finally sweep away the exploiting governments and their English
proectors.

The Revolutionary Movement in Java.

By P. Berger

The violent collisions between the tremendous masses of
China and the imperialist Powers, are having also a great influence
on the national revolutionary movement in

Up to the present the native population has always carried
on its struggle against Dutch imperialism independently and not
in connection with the 800,000 Chinese who reside there. After
the world war a certain connection between the Chinese and native
rebellions; the differences in religion however led to a separation
and even to mutual hostility.

Now that the great national fight against European imperial-
ism has flared up, the Chinese and natives of Indonesia work
C

As always the case, many leaders are arrested. Terror
C

The Government of Java passed a law forbidding the col-
lection of money for the struggle in China on the grounds of
its being raised in aid of a cause "with a political background."

As is always the case, many leaders are arrested. Terror
does not decrease but is rather on the increase. The Government
explains this by alleging that the action of the Chinese and natives in
China has given rise to great unrest in Java.
A

As a result of the revolution, the dock-yard labourers and sailors of
Semarang have gone on strike, the nursing staff in various hospitals as
well as typographers refuse to work; in Priok, the Custom-house officers
are on strike, and even in the remotest districts the peasants refuse to bring their produce to market.

At the place where the strikes and agitations are centred,
acts of terrorism have been the order of the day. The police of
Semarang, who had been entrusted with the task of keeping the strikers under observation, joined forces
with them to the object of extorting better pay.

Soldiers and non-commissioned officers who were suspected
of sympathy or connexion with the Communists, were discharged
from the army. Workers in private enterprises, as well as those
in State employ, who dare to have any intercourse with a
Communist or receive him into their homes, are dismissed.

The national Association of the Javanese Intelligentsia
"Boedi Oetomo" tends towards the Left. The Indonesian Asso-
}