

THE MAKING  
OF MODERN EGYPT



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*Cover*

THE MAKING  
OF  
MODERN EGYPT

BY

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN

K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E.

LATE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES & ODDH;  
FORMERLY FINANCIAL MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VICEROY OF INDIA  
BRITISH COMPTROLLER-GENERAL IN EGYPT;  
AND FINANCIAL ADVISER TO H.H. THE KHEDIVÉ

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## PREFACE

THE writer cannot let this book appear without expressing his most cordial thanks to friends and officials in Egypt, who have kindly helped him with information. He is alone responsible for the accuracy of all facts and figures, as for opinions or criticisms, which will be found in the following pages. But without assistance as to details regarding Anglo-Egyptian administration his difficulties would have been greatly increased.

Wherever he has made use of matter already published in other works, he has been careful to acknowledge his indebtedness. He has largely utilized the very voluminous Blue Books on Egypt; and Lord Cromer's annual Reports, from 1891 onward, have been invaluable to him.

A. C.

*February, 1906*

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## APPENDIX I

(See page 255.)

THE following descriptions of the dam at Assuan and of the Assiout and Zifta barrages are taken from a paper contributed by Colonel Sir Hanbury Brown, K.C.M.G., late R.E., to the Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, at the International Engineering Congress of 1904, and printed in the Transactions of that Society, volume LIV, part C, 1905.

The Assuan Dam is built on the granite rock which forms the crest of the First Cataract, 600 miles to the south of Cairo. The original design of the dam was the work of Sir William Willcocks; the dam, as actually built, was in principle the same as that originally designed, but was modified in details. It is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles (2000 m.) in length. Its height varies with the level at which sound rock was found, the maximum height from foundation being about 125 ft. (37 m.). The thickness of the dam at the top is 23 ft. (7 m.) and at the deepest part 81 ft. (25 m.), and the total weight of masonry in it is over one million tons. The difference of water-level above and below the dam is 67 ft. (21 m.). The dam is constructed of local granite set in Portland cement mortar. The interior is of rubble laid by hand, with about 40% of the bulk in cement mortar, 4 of sand to 1 of cement. All the face work is of coursed rock-faced ashlar, except the sluice linings, which are finely dressed. The lining of thirty of the lower sluices is of cast iron. The dam is pierced with sluice openings of sufficient area to pass the flood discharge of the river, which may amount to 500,000 cu. ft. per sec. There are 140 such openings 23 ft. (7 m.) high by 6 ft. 6 in. (2 m.) wide, and forty more of half that height and same width. Those sluice-gates which are subject to heavy pressure at the time of movement are of the Stoney roller pattern. Navigation is provided for by a ladder of four locks, each 263 ft. (80 m.) long by 31 ft. (9½ m.) wide. The cost of the dam was 2½ million pounds.

The reservoir above the dam, as built, is calculated to hold about 1300 million cubic yards of water with the water-surface at 106 m. above sea. It had originally been decided to build the dam 26 ft. higher, so as to hold up water to 114 m. above sea, which would have given a storage capacity in the reservoir of 3250 million cu. yd. But the Egyptian Government gave way before the strong protests against the submersion of Philæ raised by archæologists and artists, and the lesser project was adopted; a compromise which is far from satisfying the champions either of the past or of the present.

Both the Assiout and Zifta barrages are built on platforms, 9 ft. 9 in. (3 m.) thick and from 85 to 100 ft. (26 to 30 m.) wide, enclosed between up- and down-stream rows of cast-iron piles specially designed to permit of the junctions being grouted with cement. In addition, there are apron extensions to the floor, the up-stream apron being of rubble and puddled clay, the down-stream apron of rubble overlying a filter bed of pebbles and fine stuff. The Assiout Barrage is 900 yd. in length and has 111 bays of 16 ft. 5 in. (5 m.) width, separated by piers 6 ft. 6 in. (2 m.) wide, with abutment piers of 13 ft. (4 m.) thickness after every ninth opening, and a lock of 52 ft. 6 in. (16 m.) width and 263 ft. (80 m.) length. Two iron regulating gates, as in the old barrage, are worked in vertical grooves by an overhead winch, and provide for holding up a level of 9 ft. 9 in. (3 m.) of water. The Zifta Barrage has 50 bays, but is in other respects similar to the Assiout Barrage, except that it is designed to hold up 13 ft. of water.

## APPENDIX II

### THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET FOR 1906

(Page 349.)

**T**HE Budget for the year 1906 shows an approximate revenue, in the year 1905, of £E.14,500,000, against an estimate of £E.12,255,000. The estimate for 1906 is taken at £E.13,500,000, after allowing for fresh reduction of taxation, to the amount of £E.332,000; expenditure, ordinary and special, is estimated at £E.13,000,000, leaving a surplus of £E.500,000. Exclusive of special credits, and of credits chargeable to the Reserve Fund, the estimated expenditure of 1906 amounts to £E.12,317,000, against £E.11,308,000 in 1905. Of this excess, the sum of £E.370,000 is due to the extraordinary recent rise in prices in Egypt, necessitating an increase to many salaries, with enhanced cost of maintenance of prisoners, hospital patients, forage, and the like. Inclusive of special credits for expenditure on works of public utility, chargeable to the Reserve Fund, the expenditure amounts, as above shown, to £E.13,000,000.

The reductions in taxation, referred to above, which bring the total of taxes reduced since 1883 to a figure considerably over two million pounds Egyptian, have been under the following heads:—

Salt monopoly abolished, after arrangement with the "Salt and Soda" Company, who are the present lessees, by which, among other points, the price of salt has been lowered from £E.5 to £E.2 per ton (see p. 288), estimated loss of revenue . . .	£E. 175,000
Tax on sea fishing boats . . . . .	2,000
Ferry tax on canals abolished } . . . . .	7,000
" " Nile " " } . . . . .	7,000
Red Sea lighthouse dues reduced . . . . .	30,000
Import duty reduced from 8%, being the general tariff of the Turkish Exterior, to 4% on coal, liquid fuel, charcoal, firewood, timber for building purposes, petroleum; oxen, cows, sheep, and goats, whether alive or cold stored . . . . .	118,000



Since the Budget was framed, penny postage has been established between Great Britain and Egypt at an estimated loss to the Egyptian Treasury of £E.4,200.

The Department of Public Instruction receives a grant of £E.276,300 in 1906, as against £E.234,800 in 1905; of this increase, £E.20,000 is borne by the Treasury, the remainder being provided by increased receipts. The Jail estimates have been raised from £E.93,080 in 1905 to £E.117,032 in 1906; mainly on account of the increased cost of provisions. Railway expenditure is estimated at £E.1,803,061 in 1906, as against £E.1,416,000 in 1905. The Sanitary and Judicial Departments also receive increased grants.

The Reserve Fund at the commencement of 1906 stood at £E.13,381,000.

The extraordinary expenditure chargeable to the Reserve Fund in 1906 is as follows:—

*Balance of expenditure authorized in 1904 and 1905  
and unexpended.*

Public Works . . . .	£E.300,000	
Railways . . . . .	„ 600,000	
Port of Alexandria . . . .	„ 500,000	
Nile-Red Sea Railway . . . .	„ 400,000	
Abou-Hamed Kareima Railway . . . .	„ 200,000	
Port Sudan . . . . .	„ 80,000	
Other expenditure . . . . .	„ 520,000	£E.2,600,000

*New expenditure authorized for 1906.*

Public Works:—

Remodelling canals and drains in Upper Egypt . . . . .	£E.590,000	
Remodelling canals and drains in Lower Egypt . . . . .	„ 140,000	
Esneh Barrage . . . . .	„ 250,000	
Nile bridges . . . . .	„ 200,000	
Other works . . . . .	„ 410,000	
	<u>£E.1,590,000</u>	
Railways . . . . .	„ 700,000	
Port Sudan . . . . .	„ 210,000	£E.2,500,000
		<u>£E.5,100,000</u>

## APPENDIX II

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In addition to this sum, further expenditure is contemplated in the near future, and is already earmarked against the Reserve Fund. The programme of irrigation work in hand will absorb at least two millions, and the extension and reorganization of the State Railway system one and a half millions, over and above the amounts allowed for the coming year.

Of the new credits granted from the Reserve Fund, by far the largest item is for irrigation purposes. The Egyptian Railways figure for £E.700,000 and Port Sudan for £E.210,000. The work at the latter place will be pushed forward with all available despatch.

During the year the Nile-Red Sea Railway has been completed and opened to traffic in January: the unexpended balance of the credits granted in 1904-5 under this head represents accounts not yet regularized.

£E.250,000 has been granted this year out of an estimated total of £E.1,000,000 for the construction of a further barrage on the Nile at Esneh, in Upper Egypt. The work has been entrusted to Messrs. Aird, the experienced builders of the Assouan dam.

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