

2 BERTHO PLACE

S. 11.3.

20th February, 1919.

My dear Fisher,

I know very little about Egypt myself and I have, therefore, made one or two enquiries. A man I saw last night who, however, does not know much himself, told me that he believed that £300 a year in England would go as far or further than £500 a year in Cairo. I wrote to my cousin, Hervey Vaughan Williams, who left the Egyptian Civil Service five/^{or six}years ago, if I remember right, and I enclose a copy of his reply. I hope this information may be of use to you. It sounds an interesting job, but I fear life out there is expensive.

I have been doing a little work lately - re-writing a paper which you once read on the Postulates of Evolution. I think I shall be sending you one or two mathematical conundrums on this subject in the hope that you will kindly solve them for me.

Yours sincerely,

L. Darwin

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Copy of a letter from Mr. Vaughan Williams.

I have been sitting on a Selection Committee at the Foreign Office for candidates for judicial posts in Egypt and have then seen a friend lately come from Egypt to take a post in the F.O. after 13 years in the Egyptian civil service. He tells me living is dear in Egypt for a married man with children - as it was in my view. He considered that for a married man with family £800 a year equalled about £500 a year in England. But then he assumed that one would take annual leave - or at least the family would - which is an expensive matter. Also I think he assumed that in Egypt one would live the life of the upper civil servants - (heads of departments, controllers, etc.) which of course is on a more expensive basis than that of men on £300 - £500 a year. But I think if your friend has no private means he would find life on £500 or less a hard struggle if he has children. Of course there are men who do it but they are of the clerk class and do not as a rule socially see much or anything of the people of our class.

The climate is very pleasant (generally speaking) from October to May. From end of May to middle October it is very hot temp. about 90 - 100 Fahrenheit - but dry so not very bad for adults but trying to children (I am speaking of Cairo where your friend would be)

My experience is the same as that of my friend as regards incomes in Egypt - though of course it was not personal experience as I was a bachelor.