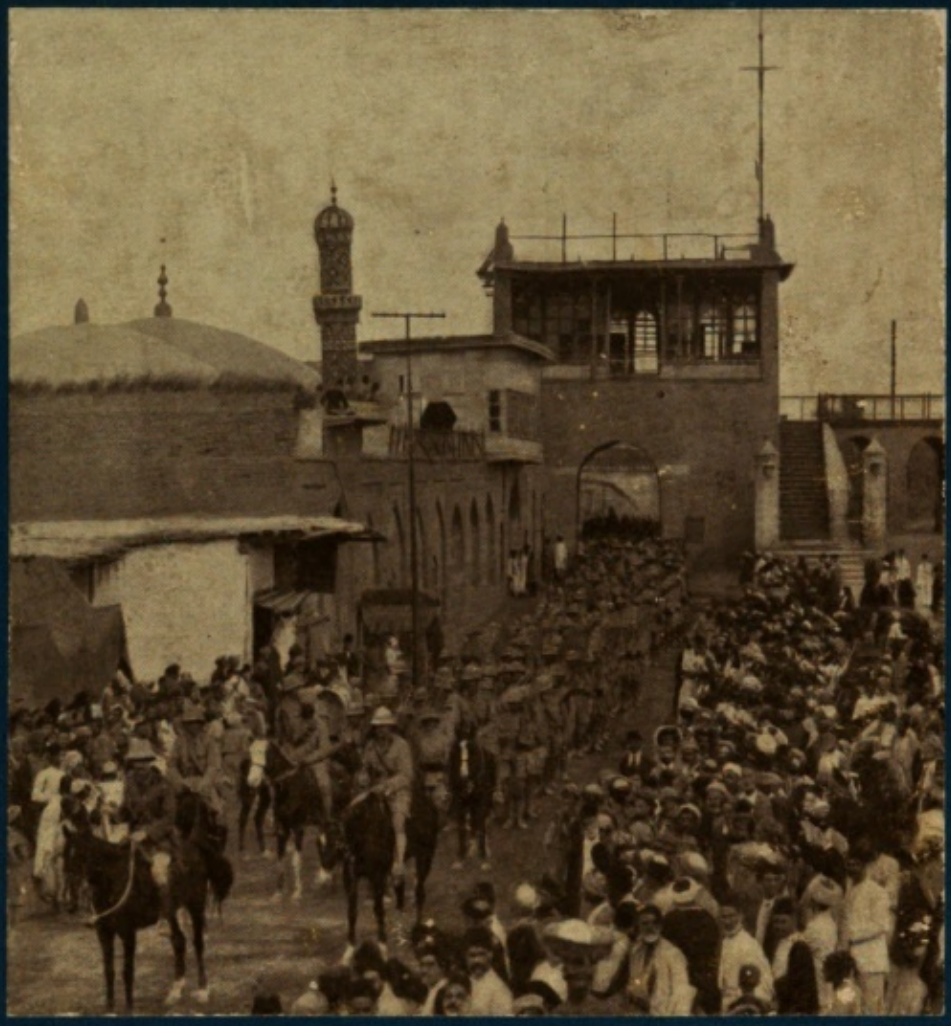

THE WAR IN THE CRADLE OF THE WORLD

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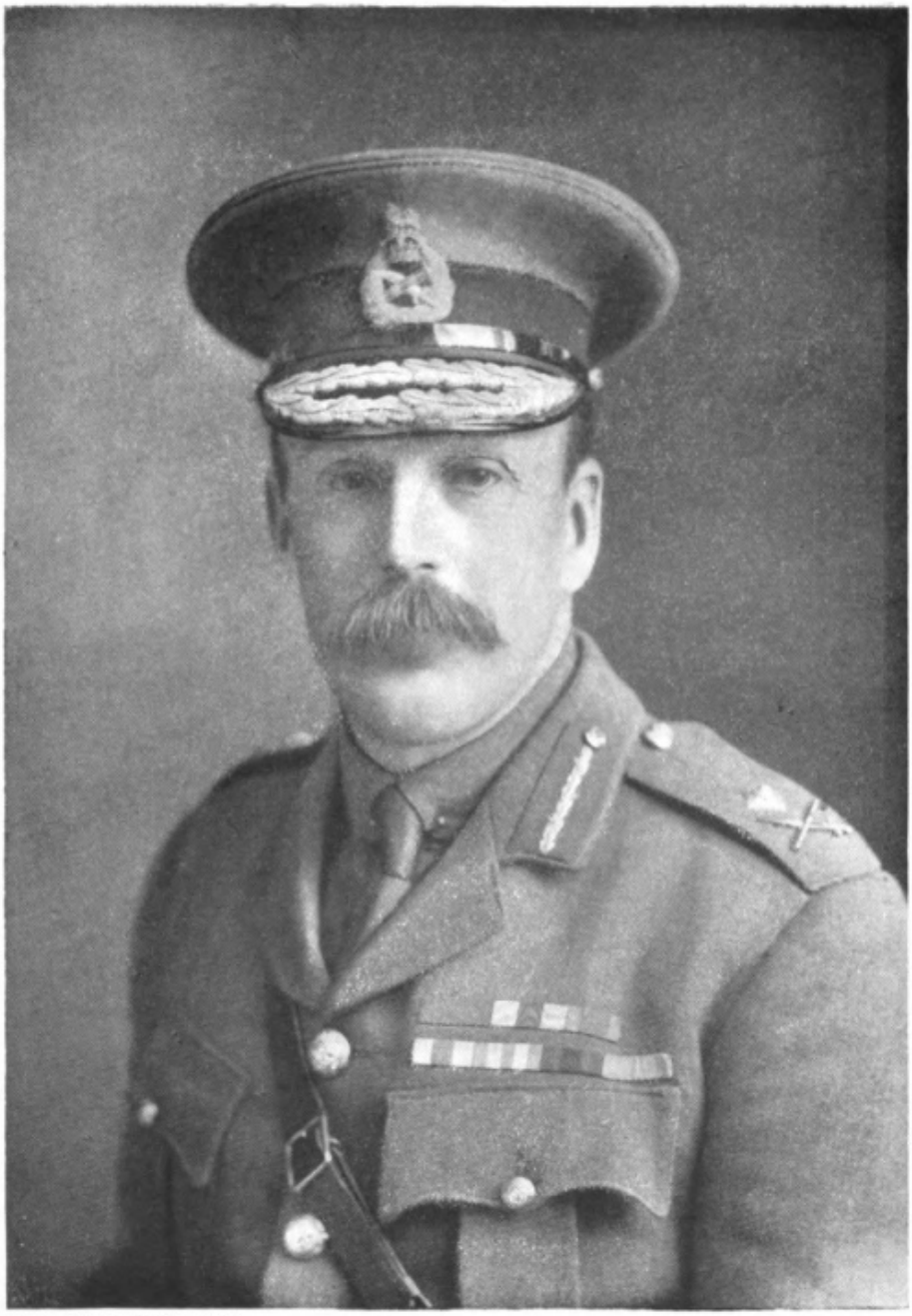

Photo. Mauli & Fox, Ltd.

Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude,
"the Man of Mesopotamia."

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bay City Improvement Trust came into being, an organisation entrusted principally with the complicated and nearly impossible business of getting the property owners and the population in general to listen to reason. It has in its membership eminent and respected representatives of every community and every sect in the city, who serve without pay, and who, for a good many years, have been going on with the job as diligently and faithfully as though they were making large private fortunes out of it. Behind them a Public Works Department and a body of their own builders and engineers stand ready to drive a wedge of actual performance into every breach they make in the compact prejudices of the people. And if that is not a curious way for a Government to get along with the governed, there is nothing curious in this world.

But it succeeds by degrees. And it happens that within the past five years splendid avenues actually have been cut through the native city—not straight, because wherever a Mohammedan mosque lay in the way a detour had to be made; streets have been widened; the drainage system has been tremendously improved; congested areas have been thinned out; fine tenement houses have been built here and there, and such projects undertaken and carried to completion as could not have been suggested a few years ago.

There is a Port Trust also, and it, too, is a trust in the sense that it is a guardian of public interests. It is an older institution than the City Improvement Trust and has more to show for its activities. It has so much, in fact, that I shall not attempt to write about it. Its members are able to deluge any visitor who will hold still long enough with a flood of statistical narrative that will sweep him off his feet. They like to ' point with pride,' and will defy you to name any city on earth that has finer docks, more magnificent warehouses, a better system of railway communication with the shipping

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Headquarters Staff. Lines of Communication. Major-General Sir George MacMunn, the I.G.C., seated in centre, the Deputy Brigadier-General Sullivan on his right.

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Major-General Sir George MacMunn, K.C.B., D.S.O., Inspector-General of Communications of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

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