

No. 3.

Report by the Commission of Inquiry into the Jaffa Riots.

PART I.—NARRATIVE OF EVENTS.

INTRODUCTORY.

The disturbances dealt with in this report began with a riot in Jaffa on Sunday, the 1st May, 1921, followed by serious acts of violence in the same town on the two succeeding days, and local attacks on Jewish agricultural colonies on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week. To the same group of events belong sporadic anti-Jewish manifestations which occurred in Jaffa during June and as late as July.

On the 7th May a Commission was appointed by the High Commissioner for Palestine to inquire into the whole affair, and began its labours at Jaffa on the 12th May. The inquiry was held in public, but counsel were not invited to take part in the proceedings.

The persons appointed as Commissioners were Sir Thomas Haycraft, Chief Justice of Palestine (Chairman), Mr. H. C. Luke, Assistant Governor of Jerusalem, and Mr. J. N. Stubbs, Assistant Controller of Land Registries. The Commissioners were assisted by three assessors representing the Moslems, Christians and Jews, Aref Pasha Dejjani, Elias Effendi Mushabbek, and Dr. M. Eliash, gentlemen well acquainted with the conditions and sentiments of their respective communities. The assessors had no hand in drawing up this report and are in no way responsible for the opinions therein expressed, but they helped the Commission in many ways, especially in the examination of witnesses, whose evidence they followed with close attention. Mr. E. Bryant, of the Financial Secretary's Office, was appointed Secretary of the Commission.

Including the time spent on the examination into the Khedera raid, which has been made the subject of a separate report,* the Commission sat without interruption from the 12th May to the 26th July, 1921, and heard 291 witnesses. The Khedera raid was one in the same series of disturbances with which the Commission has been engaged, and the two reports should be read together if it is desired to understand the whole aspect of the anti-Jewish movement which was responsible for these events, as it has appeared to the Commission.

DESCRIPTION OF JAFFA.

Jaffa is a sea-port of Palestine, about 40 miles distant by road, W.N.W. of Jerusalem, and connected with the capital by a railway.

* No. 2.