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# THE PALESTINE BULLETIN

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## WILL BRITAIN GIVE UP IRAQ MANDATE? Likelihood of Iraq Following Egypt Possibility of Iraq Entering League

EFFECT ON PALESTINE

LONDON, September 20 (P.T.A.)

situation may arise in the near future which profoundly affect the political position in the East in general and in Palestine in particular.

According to the diplomatic correspondence of the "Daily Telegraph," one of the best informed papers in Great Britain, the British Government is likely at no very distant date to give the Mandate for Iraq. This view is based on sound indications which the discerning eye noted for some time. In the latest report sent by the Colonial Office to the League of Nations dealing with the position in Iraq not a word is said as to the advisability or intention of Great Britain to continue the Mandate. This silence cannot be accidental. Normally, of course, it is not necessary for the British Government to emphasize the fact that it intends to continue holding the Mandate, but on this occasion totally different considerations prevailed. In the Report itself to the League of Nations, the greatest emphasis is laid on the desire manifested by Iraq for the termination of the Mandate. Not a single argument is put forward by the British Government in opposition to this desire.

Therefore, the legitimate assumption is that Great Britain intends to relinquish the Mandate, it would appear more than possible that Great Britain would support the application of Iraq for admission to the League.

The entry of Iraq into the League of Nations would automatically put an end to the position of Iraq as mandated territory.

Once Iraq became a member of the League, there would in all probability be a financial agreement between Iraq and Great Britain, coupled with an arrangement with regard to defence. There might be something similar to the Henderson agreement in Egypt. Under that agreement Great Britain promises to support Egypt's application for entry into the League.

### HAND BACK THE MANDATES!

Having regard to these possible changes in the political atmosphere during the coming months, the position of Palestine in its relationship to Great Britain becomes again a burning question.

The Mandate is supposed to last just so long as a people is incapable of governing itself. When Sir John Chancellor left Palestine he proposed to take up the question of self-governing institutions with H. M. Government. This might have resulted in the beginning of such self-government as would have led to the relinquishment of the Mandate. But Sir John's first proclamation shewn that owing to the political recklessness of certain elements in Palestine the whole question has now been shelved.

Nevertheless, in a four column article in his own paper Lord Rothermere asks Great Britain to hand back the mandates. Iraq should be given up. Palestine should be given up. Although Lord Rothermere is not treated too seriously by sober

politicians, the fact that he expresses his views with a good deal of heat in a widely read penny paper is evidence of what some men in the street are saying in England. He writes:

I know that I am speaking for the immense majority of my fellow-countrymen when I urge the Labour Government to make the early resignation of these mandates its immediate task. For Great Britain they are as profitless as they are perilous. We need all our energies and resources to deal with the steadily growing economic crisis at home.

By consenting to the evacuation of Egypt Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has raised the nationalist feeling of the Arabs to fever-heat. Both logically and practically it is impossible for the Labour Government to insist upon maintaining Palestine and Iraq in tutelage after conceding full independence to the Egyptians. The Arabs know this, and they will not relax their pressure until Mr. Ramsay Macdonald yields.

The Labour Cabinet was hailed as a Government of Peace. They must take the greatest care lest they find themselves faced at the next election with the damning charge of having involved this country in an Arab War, not by their own seeking but by their own folly. It is often the most peace-loving statesmen who make wars. Let Mr. Ramsay Macdonald take warning from the example of Lord Aberdeen, who, though full of the most pacific intentions, led Great Britain into the Crimean War as the result of a religious riot which broke out in Jerusalem—the very city where the present troubles started.

It would be nothing less than a betrayal of the British nation to keep it any longer exposed to the deadly risks it now runs in the Middle East. Let us get away from that hornets' nest while there is yet time!

### VENUE OF FIVE POWER CONFERENCE STILL UNSETTLED

LONDON, September 20 (P.T.A.—R.)

The report that Mr. Macdonald has sent out invitations to France, Italy and Japan to take part in the forthcoming Five Power Naval Conference is premature. Such invitations are, however, likely to be sent in the near future. No final decision has yet been taken as to the date or place of meeting.

### FREEDOM OF CITY OF LONDON FOR MACDONALD AND SNOWDEN

LONDON, September 20 (P.T.A.—R.)

The appreciation of the City of London of the services of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, in connection with disarmament and of Mr. Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his work at the Hague is being shewn by the conferring upon them of the honour of the Freedom of the City. The Corporation, by an unanimous decision, decided that the insignia of the Freedom of the City should be presented to Mr. Macdonald and to Mr. Snowden in golden boxes.

## League Assembly Adopts Sixth Committee's Report On Palestine MANDATE A SACRED TRUST

GENEVA, September 20 (P.T.A.—R.)

At the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations held today, the Report of the Sixth Committee upon Palestine together with resolutions expressing confidence in the Shaw Commission of Enquiry were adopted. Mrs. Swanwick, the veteran pioneer of women's rights, speaking in the Assembly said: "The British Government is grateful for the way in which the Assembly has treated the sudden outbreak in Palestine. Great Britain regards the Mandate for Palestine as a sacred trust. Great Britain considers it her duty to bring together the peoples of the Middle East under her Mandate, in order to make them self-governing. No other way is known than that of the Mandate by which an indefinite postponement of self-governing institutions can be avoided. We have so many Arab friends, concluded Mrs. Swanwick, and so many members of the Jewish race in the British Empire that I hope we may not prove ourselves altogether incapable of dealing with the difficulties that face us in Palestine."

### GREAT BRITAIN, INDIA AND DOMINIONS RENOUNCE WAR Optional Clause Signed

GENEVA, September 20 (P.T.A.—R.)

Great Britain, India, New Zealand and South Africa today appended their signatures to the Optional Clause, whereby they renounce war as a means of settling international disputes, and accept arbitration as the proper method of settling international differences.

### WARSHIPS IN PALESTINE WATERS

Naval Visits to Haifa and Jaffa during course of Month

LONDON, September 19 (P.T.A.)

Certain re-arrangements in the distribution of the vessels of the Mediterranean Fleet are taking place as the result of the Palestine troubles. Arrangements are being completed by the Admiralty whereby certain warships will pay visits from time to time to Palestine waters.

In the immediate future the following movements of ships are taking place. The aircraft carrier Courageous will call at Haifa on September 26. It will reach Jaffa the following day.

### Another Battleship for Jaffa

A third cruiser squadron will visit both ports on September 30. H.M.S. Barham will remain off Jaffa from October 1 to October 8.

In addition, the battleship Malaya will arrive at Jaffa on October 17. Further movements of warships in Palestine waters are at present undecided. They will depend partly on the Government's view of the situation at the end of October and how far further precautionary measures may be necessary. The Admiralty will announce in due course its programme for the future.