

النبشة الفلسطينية
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 Delivered Home Daily
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 JERUSALEM
 ROAD, P. O. B. 683.

THE PALESTINE BULLETIN

PUBLISHED DAILY
 Registered as a Newspaper at the G. P. O. Jerusalem.

RISHON-LE-ZION
Carmel Oriental
 WINES & BRANDIES
 A Standard of Quality
 Throughout the World

No. 1419.

Jerusalem, Thursday, September 26th., 1929.

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Churchill On Palestine

Interesting Article Written For Palestine Bulletin

What Of The Future Of The Country?

period of tranquility and progress which has enjoyed since the Cairo Conference of 1921 has been suddenly and violently disturbed by an explosion of racial and religious passion. Two hundred cruel murders, for the most part senseless people, have startled and distressed the Jewish public widely distributed throughout the speaking world to whom the vision of a National Home makes its persevering appeal. Order has now been restored. Troops, aeroplanes, have swiftly reached the scene. The situation is under control and searching and inquiry is being made to ascertain the causes and to apprehend and punish the offenders according to law. We have now to think of the means and to decide upon measures which will prevent the recurrence of such tragic events.

Fair Treatment To Jew And Arab

Cairo Conference in 1921 I made a general statement of British affairs in Palestine and Mesopotamia. These arrangements have in principle been approved by every government, Coalition, Labour, Conservative, which has held office since. The guiding principle in view was the faithful fulfilment, with the minimum of military expense, of the understandings into which Great Britain had entered during the war. For this purpose it was imperative that fair and equal treatment be extended both to Jew and Arab in the future.

While on the one hand the development of the Jewish aim was fostered and furthered, the Arab was conciliated by the creation of an independent kingdom in Iraq under the Emir Feisal and the appointment of the Emir Abdullah, another son of the Emir of Mecca, to be Governor of Transjordan. The guiding principle was to convince Jew and Arab that fruitful and happy destinies lay before them in these wide regions, that each develop his own ideals, that both were to be and that each in his own way could enjoy peace and enrich a common country. This must rule our thought and action to-day.

Gendarmerie To Keep The Peace

The policy of 1921 for Palestine did not have a practical side. I formed a British Gendarmerie composed largely of ex-officer class who were to be the prime force in keeping the public peace. A police force is far more effective for preventing crime in such countries than military garrisons. The police, riding about the country or patrolling it in motor cars are in intimate touch with every section, and class and community. They know what is going to happen before it happens. They acquire great confidence with the population and soon win their place as the trusted guides and protectors of the people in many difficulties.



WINSTON CHURCHILL
 The Most Versatile And Brilliant of
 Modern English Politicians

This force was fully established and functioning when I left office at the end of 1922. When I returned in 1924 I found it had been disbanded. I regretted this but we were assured that the situation had so much improved that this heavy expense upon the Palestine Budget could be dispensed with. Indeed it may be argued that all would have been well but for an unfortunate action by the new Labour Socialist Government.

Fanatical Thirsts To Be Slaked

In order to gratify some extreme section of their supporters they went out of their way to dismiss Lord Lloyd, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, and thereafter published proposals involving the withdrawal of the British Troops from Cairo and Alexandria. The whole of the Middle East is intimately related. Beneath the smooth surface of British rule and the slender garrisons which normally sustain it are smouldering the antagonisms of centuries. There are always feuds and animosities. There are always scores to be settled and fanatical thirsts to be slaked.

Any appearance of lack of power on the part of the British Government, or of lack of confidence in their mission in those countries, blows like a draught of air on the dull fierce embers. I have no doubt that the declaration that the British garrisons would evacuate Egypt, where for nearly fifty years they have maintained peace and progress, and the marked censure and humiliation of a competent and fearless administrator like Lord Lloyd, was taken as a signal by the discontented factions among the Arabs that the hour to strike had come. What has happened in Palestine is only a bloody foretaste of what will undoubtedly happen on a far larger scale throughout the Nile Valley and would happen on a gigantic scale from one end of India to the other once the sober, guiding and pacifying influence of the British Imperial Power were withdrawn.

(Continued on page 2.)

Ibn Saud On The War-Path

REBEL LEADER'S SON KILLED

A fifteen hour battle has been waged between the soldiers of Ibn Saud and the rebels under Faisal Dawish. The battle took place on the Nejd-Koweit boundary. Faisal Dawish, the rebel leader, hopes to occupy Elhassa. This is the first strategic move by which Faisal Dawish hopes ultimately to unseat the Wahabi Monarch and drive him from the country. Ibn Saud's troops were under the Emir, related to Ibn Saud. He routed the rebels of whom sixty were killed and large numbers wounded. The rebel leader tried to penetrate Wattaal Harud which was being held by the Emir. In the battle outside the town more rebels were killed. The casualties included Abdul Aziz Dawish, the son of the rebel Sheikh. He was a brave lad, who, in spite of the wounds would not retire, but carried on the fight against the enemies until he was killed.

Fugitives running away from the battle reached Elsabachia, sixty miles from Koweit. The Emir of Koweit warned the rebels that they must expect no hospitality whatever, anywhere in his domains. The Emir is doubtless afraid of the might of Ibn Saud. The King's forces number some forty thousand.

When Faisal Dawish heard of the death of his son he drew his sword and said, "I will continue this war against Ibn Saud so long as there is breath left in this body of mine." Faisal Dawish hopes to mobilise sufficient Akhwan tribesmen to defy the King's regulars.

AUSTRIAN POLITICAL CRISIS

Chancellor Resigns

VIENNA, September 26 (P.T.A.—R.)

Dissensions which have for a long time been making it almost impossible for the Austrian Cabinet to carry on have now precipitated a political crisis. This has been intensified by the resignation today of the Chancellor Dr. Steuertitz.

FORTY-FIVE KILLED IN RUSSIAN TRAIN DISASTER

MOSCOW, September 25 (P.T.A.—R.)

Forty-five people were killed and 36 injured in the derailment of an Express train which was travelling from Moscow to Siberia. The accident occurred some fifty miles from Viatka.

AIR MAIL DIFFICULTIES

Necessity For Night Halts In Deserts

LONDON, September 24 (P.T.A.—R.)

The air mail traffic on the route via Palestine to India is not increasing anywhere nearly as rapidly as was hoped. This was the statement made by Sir Eric Geddes, speaking at the annual meeting of the Imperial Airways Ltd. It would be necessary to find accommodation for passengers, in order to make the route a paying proposition. This however, could only be done very gradually. It would be necessary to sink a large amount of capital, in order to build night halts in Palestine, on the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. The Imperial Airways hoped to continue the service as far as Australia. The negotiations with the Indian Government for a permanent Karachi-Delhi-Calcutta service have not as yet reached any conclusion. The Board of the Imperial Airways, said Sir Eric, was also in communication with the British Government and with the Australian Government in regard to the question of the possibility of a regular England Australia air service.