

CURRENT OPINION

March, 1921

The Dream of a Jewish State

ALL the dreamers of the world have been fired with new zeal by the World War and its results, and all the dreams of the last five thousand years seem to have been kindled into new life. Egypt dreams of a new destiny, Greece of a revived grandeur, Rome of a restored glory. The dreamers of Russia are having their day and their dreams are infesting the radicals of many lands. India is stirring with new visions of national splendor, Arabia is aglow with new hopes, China is seething with new aspirations. Even the negroes here in our own country have caught the contagion and are dreaming of a new Moses and a Promised Land of their own in Africa.

For 2500 years the Jews have been dreaming of a Jewish State, of Jerusalem regained, of Zion restored. For centuries it has been meat and drink to them in all lands and under all kinds of hardships. Now they see their dream assuming a tangible shape and becoming part of the political program of the Powers that rule the destiny of Europe and the Near East. The League of Nations has conferred on Great Britain a mandate for Palestine, and Great Britain has officially pledged herself to place Palestine "under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of a Jewish national home."

Note the phrase, "Jewish national home," instead of the phrase "Jewish State" or "Jewish Commonwealth." It is important, and the reason

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SAFETY FIRST

—Bronstrup in San Francisco Chronicle.

for it is found in conditions in Palestine that have received too little attention and which are big with the possibilities of trouble. "Another tragic chapter in the history of the Hebrews" is invited by the dreams of political Zionism, according to a writer in the *Atlantic Monthly*, and "there can be no question that anti-Semitism, not only in Palestine but throughout the world, will increase more and more as the world, Christian and Moslem, becomes familiar with the situation."

What is the situation?

There are three kinds of Zionism, the religious, the economic, the political. The religious Zionists—the Orthodox Jews,—look to Jehovah and not to Jewish financiers and politicians to restore the Jewish Kingdom. They take little stock in political Zionism. Economic Zionism has to do with establishing colonies in Palestine of Jews who find conditions in other lands intolerable. It has established about 40 colonies, numbering about 13,000 souls. It does not engender serious opposition. But political Zionists, who are the sort usually meant when we speak of the Zionist movement, have their mind set on transforming

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Here is where trouble comes in. For Palestine is already inhabited and the Jews form but a fraction of the population.

The bulk of the population of Palestine, we are told by the *Atlantic Monthly* writer, Albert T. Clay, are Syrians, who have in their veins the blood of many races, including Semitic, Persian, Greek, Arab. They derive also from the ancient Canaanite inhabitants who were conquered by the Jews who find conditions in other lands intolerable. It has established about 40 colonies, numbering about 13,000 souls. It does not engender serious opposition. But political Zionists, who are the sort usually meant when we speak of the Zionist movement, have their mind set on transforming Palestine into a Jewish State, ruled by Jews for Jews.

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LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG!

—Harding in *Brooklyn Eagle*.

leaders, erroneously classifying the present inhabitants as Arabs, expect them to "silently steal away," as Zangwill puts it, and leave the Jews free to rule. And as Palestine can support only about 1½ millions, they expect to take in Syria and to extend the boundaries of their Jewish State to the Euphrates, and to obtain an outlet on the Gulf of Akaba.

So intense a feeling has been aroused that Moslems and Christians have united in the Moslem and Christian League. They are, it seems, a

unit on three resolutions: the first calling for the independence of Syria; the second opposing its division, that is, the separation of Palestine from Syria; the third calling for restriction of Jewish immigration.

Last spring there was a demonstration, 20,000 strong, in Jerusalem, in opposition to political Zionism. Many of the Christians took an oath to resist Jewish rule with their lives. The President of the League, Aref Pasha El Dajani,

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declares that the people prefer even the tyranny of the Turk to the rule of the Jews.

Into this hornet's nest the British Government finds itself injected. As if it did not have enough hornets' nests already! There is a loud protest in London. The *Mail* says it is a case of the whole world "passing the buck" to Great Britain and a buck of "the most elephantine kind." "We can not afford Mesopotamia and Palestine," groans the *Express*, and British resources should be kept for British reconstruction and not poured forth upon the arid wastes of the Middle East. The *Morning Post* speaks of the "wild ambitions and fantastic dreams" of the political Zionists. The *Times*, however, is for not only a "Jewish national home" but a Jewish commonwealth. Palestine must, it holds, become a nation, because only so can it stand alone; and it is the Jews of the world who must make it a nation.

Mr. Balfour and Lloyd George have tried to steer a middle course. In the mandate submitted to the League of Nations and published last month, a pledge is given for "the safeguarding of the civil and religious rights of all inhabitants irrespective of race or religion." But a political Zionist, Sir Herbert Samuel, has been appointed High Commissioner, the judicial department has been placed in the hands of another political Zionist, and the Zionist organization has been recognized as an official public agency "for advising and for operating with the administration" in establishing a Jewish national home.

Already a program of proscription seems to have been set in operation by the Zionists. Last winter the Council

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JUST WONDERING WHERE TO BEGIN
—McCarthy in *New Orleans Times-Picayune*.

of Jerusalem Jews proscribed many schools, including the British High School for Girls, the English College for Boys, the Jewish (but anti-Zionist) School for Girls, and many others conducted by convents and churches. Jewish parents were notified not to send their children to these schools on pain of social and business boycott. The Hebrew daily paper, *Doar Hayom* (Jerusalem), warned those who defied the notices of the consequences. It said: "If they are supported, their support will cease; if they are merchants, the finger of scorn will be pointed at them; if they are rabbis, they will be moved far from their office; they shall be put under the ban and persecuted, and all the people of the world shall know that there is no mercy in justice." A month later, finding that some Jews defied the Council and tore up its notices, the *Doar Hayom* called for an order to be sent forth to the effect "that doctors will not visit their sick, that assistance when in need, if they are on the list of the American Relief Fund, will not be given to them. . . . Men will cry

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to them, 'Out of the way, unclean, unclean,'. They are in no sense Israelites."

Nothing has developed since the war that is more disheartening than the spirit exhibited in these threats. It is exactly the same spirit that has created hell upon earth for the Jews in so many lands. But there it was shown against Jews by other races; here it is shown against Jews by other Jews. Is the radiant dream of Zionism to develop into a nightmare? These first-fruits of the movement indicate a terrible danger that it will. Nothing but a prompt shifting of control from such bitter and intolerant elements to the broad-minded leaders of the race can avert another catastrophe.

Mr. Hoover is now appealing for a League of Nations.

—*Norfolk Ledger Dispatch.*