

S.A. Jewish Chronicle

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Friday, 30th August, 1929.

The Palestinian Crisis.

Never before has the undivided attention of Jewry, and indeed of the whole civilised world, been focussed with such intensity upon Erez Israel as during the past week. That some crisis was the inevitable consequence of the sporadic disturbances of the last year was an opinion prevalently expressed in well-informed circles, but that the situation would be allowed to develop into bloodshed and rapine was never anticipated. News received by cable thus far, apparently censored for the most part, has not been very informative as to the immediate origin of the rioting and massacres. But whatever may have given the last impetus to the disturbances, the real cause of the trouble is not difficult of discovery. Many months of unredressed grievances, had created an inflammable atmosphere, which was ready to burst into a violent social explosion upon contact with an insignificant spark.

Had the "Wailing Wall" dispute been taken in hand with firmness and tact by the officials of the Palestinian Administration at the first indication that religious passions were being aroused on both sides, matters could never have come to the present pass. It is of no avail for the Administration to plead ignorance of the development of a dangerous state of tension. Following the disturbances on the Day of Atonement last year representations were made to the Mandatory Power and a petition was presented by the Zionist Organisation to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. The building of a new mosque at the site of the Wailing Wall and the cutting of a passage way through the Wall itself by the Arabs was strenuously objected to by the Jewish population as an infringement of the *status quo* which the Mandatory Power had expressed an intention of retaining until the whole question of rights and claims

to the Holy Places would be investigated. As late as 3rd August a disturbance occurred at the Wailing Wall. During the last sitting of the Zionist Congress at Zurich such grave concern was felt that it was deemed necessary for Colonel Kisch and Mr. David Yellen to fly to England to acquaint the authorities of the dangerous situation which was developing apace daily.

It cannot therefore be said that the Palestinian Administration was unacquainted with the position, and under the circumstances weighty criticism must be levelled at its policy of *laissez faire*. A neglect to listen to the urgent representations of the Jewish population to avoid impending trouble, and a complete inability immediately to cope with the first manifestations of a fanatical outbreak must inevitably meet with strong censure. Disarmed by order of the Administration two years ago the Jewish population, in the words of Advocate M. Alexander, at Wednesday night's meeting, were deprived of even the elementary right of self-defence. It is notoriously easy to be wise after the event. But where the black shadow of an impending event has hung for months over a country it is not unreasonable to expect that common sense would urge the immediate adoption of protective measures.

It is unfortunately not only in connection with the Wailing Wall dispute that the local Administration officials have shown themselves lacking in tact and understanding. The Yishub has for some considerable time past had good reason to complain of an unsympathetic attitude towards Jewish national aspirations exhibited by the Mandatory Power's Palestinian officials. It is not the time now to quote chapter and verse. At the Zurich Congress many complaints and dissatisfactions were voiced against the local officials. Complaints and protests have been made, officially and unofficially, from time to time against an attitude of indifference calculated to undermine our national morale in Palestine. The Jewish world is firmly convinced that out of the

ashes of the present conflagration there will arise an Administration bent on interpreting in practical form both the letter and the spirit of the Mandate. We have no doubt that British public opinion, traditionally fair, will express itself in no uncertain manner against the responsible—and for the most part subordinate—officials. Unless there is to be a clean sweep of these officials out of the Palestinian Administration the present bloodshed and martyrdom will have been in vain.

Stop Press.

The "Kadimah Press" Special Cable Service (J.T.A.).

London, Thursday morning.

The following statement has been issued by the Zionist Executive:—

"The Jewish people are relying upon the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate, which has worked during the last ten years for the peaceful and constructive upbuilding of Palestine. This work has now suffered violence and wanton destruction. Innocent Jews and Jewesses were murdered, and our pioneers have died in the defence of the foundations which they have laid for the Jewish National Home.

"Undeterred by these attacks, Jews all over the world must show that their determination to build up the Jewish National Home in Palestine remains unshaken, and that they will devote all strength and energy to this work. Terrorism and violence will not stop us.

"The blood of the Jewish victims cries out to us all to do our full share for the sacred cause of Palestine.

"The responsible officers of the Jewish Agency are taking immediate steps to secure adequate reparation for the damage inflicted, the punishment of all offenders, the removal of incompetent officials, a just settlement of the problem of the Wailing Wall, a renewed and increased immigration of Jews into Palestine, and a clear re-statement of the policy of the Mandatory Government with regard to Palestine.

"We call on all Jews to give immediate proof of their determination to proceed with the work in Palestine, and to put at the disposal of the Jewish Agency all necessary means to ensure that the Jewish National Home will be rebuilt effectively and speedily."

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE.

Composition of Board of Directors & Editorial Board.

With reference to the change in the ownership and control of the *S.A. Jewish Chronicle*, it is now announced that the following gentlemen have agreed to constitute the Board of Directors of the S.A. Amalgamated Jewish Press, Ltd., the publishers of the *S.A. Jewish Chronicle*:—

Mr. Woolf Harris, Chairman; Mr. M. Gurland, Mr. S. Gesundheit, Mr. J. Gitlin, Dr. S. E. Kark, Mr. Isaac Ochberg, Mr. M. Rosen, Mr. M. M. Smollan, Mr. J. Zuckerman and Mr. Benzion S. Hersch, as representing the Kadimah Press, Ltd.

In addition to the Board of Directors there has also been formed an Editorial Board, comprising:—

Mr. J. Gitlin, Chairman; Advocate H. M. Bloch, Advocate J. Herstein, Mr. David Getz and Dr. M. D. Immerman, with Mr. Benzion S. Hirsch *ex officio* member. Mr. J. Carasov will be Editor and Business Manager, and will act as Secretary of the Company and of the Editorial Board.



To the Editor,

S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

REMEMBER THE ORPHANAGE.

Sir,—It is pleasing to record that many of our community in times of joy and thanksgiving do not forget our Orphanage. Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Platzky had the happiness of celebrating the barmitzvah of their son, Manfred. They took the opportunity of sharing their joy with the inmates of the Cape Jewish Orphanage. A special party was arranged at the Institution during the afternoon, when Mr. J. Kadish, Mrs. W. Harris, Mrs. F. Chaimowitz and Mr. and Mrs. Platzky were present and helped to give the boys and girls a happy time. During the party each boy and girl was presented with a suitable gift.

At the conclusion Mr. Kadish voiced the appreciation of the Committee and all the youngsters who had spent such a happy time.

Other fathers and mothers might well follow this excellent method of celebrating their boys' barmitzvah.

I desire also to add my thanks for the treat given the children.—

Yours faithfully,

CH. BERESINSKI,
Principal.

Picardie Brandy

FOR MEN WHO APPRECIATE A REALLY FINE OLD BRANDY