

## Permanent Mandates Commission Session.

### CONSIDERATION OF PALESTINE REPORT POSTPONED.

Geneva.

The Permanent Mandates Commission, whose thirtieth session was opened here on October 27th, in the absence of its Chairman, Marquis A. Theodoli (Italy), by M. Pierre Orts (Belgium), decided to postpone the decision of the Palestine report till after the Royal Commission had completed its reports on the causes of the recent disturbances. It agreed, however, to proceed with the examination of a number of Palestine petitions, and adopted a proposal to request the British Government as Mandatory Power to send a representative who could make a statement on the question raised by the petitions.

In his opening address M. Orts, in the name of the Commission, expressed his thanks to Lord Lugard for his work as a member of the Permanent Mandates Commission for the past nine years. The League of Nations, M. Orts went on, could not find a better successor to Lord Lugard than Lord Hailey, the new British representative on the Mandates Commission.

After a brief survey of the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission between its twenty-ninth and its thirtieth session, M. Orts spoke of the present position in Palestine, especially as it affected the Mandates Commission, which, he stated, was unable to discuss the events in that country because the Mandatory Power had made it clear that it was not in a position to present a report on the situation in Palestine until the inquiry of the Royal Commission had been completed.

After the Chairman's introductory address, a long discussion took place on item 3 of the agenda, which deals with the report of the Mandatory Power on Palestine and Transjordan for 1935. M. Orts declared that many questions of an administrative character could not be discussed during the twenty-ninth session of the Mandates Commission, because the position in Palestine and, particularly, the recent disorders in the country made such a discussion impossible. For that reason the representative of the Mandatory Power refused to make a statement about the extent, the course and the importance of the disorders. During the last session of the Commission, the Chairman went on, it was expected that it might be able to discuss the situation at its next meeting. Unfortunately, the position in Palestine seemed to have undergone little change. The Commission, therefore, was not in a position to discuss the report of the Mandatory Power even yet, and consequently M. Orts proposed that item 3 of the agenda should be deleted.

After a brief discussion, the Commission accepted M. Orts's proposal.

Item 4 of the agenda which concerns a number of petitions submitted to the Secretariat of the League regarding Palestine and Syria, was next discussed.

With regard to the petitions from Palestine, the question was raised whether they should be considered or not. M. Orts and a few other members of the Commission expressed the view that since the petitions did

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## Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

### Mr. BRONISLAW HUBERMAN'S PLANS.

Vienna.

In a press interview here, Mr. Bronislaw Huberman declared that after a concert tour which would take him to Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, Italy, London, Switzerland and back again to Italy, he would travel together with Signor Toscanini to Palestine by air. Signor Toscanini would conduct the first concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra on December 25th. The rehearsals of the Orchestra were to begin long before that under Herr Steinberg, an emigre from Germany.

The programme of the first concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra would begin with the "Oberon" overture. The other items in the programme would include Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schubert and, finally, the third "Leonora" overture. The second concert would have as soloist Herr Adolf Busch, and Mr. Benno Moiseiwitsch would appear as a soloist at one of the subsequent concerts.

The Orchestra would also perform modern works by Steinberg, Schoenberg and Schostakewicz.

Mr. Huberman finally announced that he intended to spend about six weeks in Palestine.—J.T.A.

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not deal with the present disorders in Palestine or their causes, they should be considered.

This the Commission decided to do and it also requested that the Mandatory Power should send a representative who could make an official statement on the petitions.—J.T.A.

(Continued from Third Column).

9.53 in 1934 to 8.57 in 1935, and among non-Jews from 25.52 in 1934 to 22.30 in 1935. The percentage of deaths among children fell, so far as the Jewish population is concerned, from 79.95 per cent. in 1934 to 64.15 per cent. in 1935, and from 173.68 per cent. in 1934 to 146.55 in 1935 among the non-Jewish population.—J.T.A.



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## Palestine in British Defence System.

### "SCRUTATOR'S" ARTICLE IN "SUNDAY TIMES."

London.

In his article in the "Sunday Times" of November 1st on problems facing the new session of Parliament, "Scrutator" discusses the relation of Palestine to the security of the main route to India.

It is a problem of sea power and air power, he declared. "What is not generally realised is that since the Egyptian treaty it is also the problem of Palestine. What is at stake there, is something more than a racial quarrel between Jew and Arab.

"Palestine will more and more tend to take the place of Egypt in our system of defence, and it is of paramount importance to us not only that it should be prosperous and highly developed, but that it should be inhabited by a population devoted to its soil and prepared to defend it with its last drop of blood. A dominantly Arab Palestine will not satisfy that test; a Jewish Palestine certainly would in the future as it has done in the past."

"The ideal, of course, would be a fusion of the two strains in a pure Palestinian nationality. But no mere umpiring by the Mandatory will meet the case nor the maintaining of any precarious balance of rival races."—J.T.A.

## Palestine Government Health Department.

### REPORT FOR 1935.

Jerusalem.

The Health Department of the Palestine Government has just issued its report for 1935 which declares that the state of health of the population of Palestine for the past year has been highly satisfactory. With the exception of the usual seasonal epidemics, there were no serious epidemics in the country. The satisfactory rainy season of the previous year has greatly contributed to the general improvement in the health of man and beast in Palestine. The fellaheen and Bedouins had plenty of milk and meat. The flocks of sheep and the herds of cattle as well as of camels and mules have grown in numbers both through the natural increase and through imports.

The death rate of the population for 1935 was 18.62 per thousand as compared with 21.85 in 1934. The birth rate was 45.16 per thousand as compared with 41.59 in 1934. The death rate among the children decreased from 157 per thousand in 1934 to 131 in 1935.

According to the statistics compiled by the Health Department, the population of Palestine on June 30th, 1935, amounted to 1,194,529, among which 759,904 were Mohammedans, 320,000 Jews and 103,371 were Christians. The natural increase of the Jewish population amounted to 22.2 per thousand and of the non-Jewish population to 21.1 per thousand.

The percentage of births among Jews increased from 30.23 in 1934 to 30.79 in 1935, and among the non-Jews from 44.97 in 1934 to 50.41 in 1935. The percentage of deaths among the Jews decreased from

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