

## THE FUTURE OF THE HOLY LAND

### Entente Allies Committed to Further Zionism's Practicable Aims--Germany Would Use Palestine as a Pawn

By HENRY ESTY DOUNCE.

MINGLED and harmonious with Christian rejoicing when Allenby captured Jerusalem there went up from the leaders of the Jewish race in civilized Europe and this country a thanksgiving and a hosanna. For realization of the Zionist conception seemed to be sure and measurably near.

Zionism seeks the repatriation of the Jews, the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Extreme Zionists, the dreamers, have dreamed of all the Jews in the world returned to the Holy Land and settled together. For physical reasons, if for no others, that would be impossible. From five to six times the area of Palestine would be needed, and all much of it naturally fertile land. Much of Palestine is fertile only under irrigation.

The object of practical Zionists, who include almost every great Jewish financier, has been stated as "the creation of a home, secured by public rights, for those Jews who cannot or will not be assimilated in the country of their adoption." Especially this means, or has meant until the present year, a home for the Jews of Russia.

Now the future condition of the Jews of Russia, like everything else about Russia, is at this moment wholly uncertain. It appeared that the overthrow of the Czar and the empire had rid them of persecution. It appeared likewise that the Jewish problem of Europe was going to be solved. Of that problem the sufferings of the Russian Jews had been about the sum and substance. And the sufferings of the Russian Jews, as the hideous worst of modern anti-Semitism, had given their chief impulse to the practical modern Zionists.

So that after the Russian revolution, with the heads of the new republic warm and zealous on the Jews' behalf, the practical importance of Zionism began to seem diminished and less urgent. Once relieve the immediate privations of the Russian Jews where they were and ride them over with these hardships and then they might be trusted, as free and equal citizens, to shape their own happy future for themselves.

But now the political mountains of Russia, although they have brought forth mice, are still in labor. The next to come forth may be wolves, and might even be wolves of the same old breed that hunted the Jews in pogroms. Or, the mountains may simply subside, and other wolves from across the frontier may prey upon the land.

**Palestine as German Pawn.**  
Which is a fabulous way of saying that reaction to something like autonomy in Russia is by no means out of the question, and that a German penetration and dominance, evil for all the masses, including the Jews, is another possibility. In either event, the Zionist realization would be likely to regain a good deal of its urgent practical importance, although in the latter event it might have been frustrated.

For even though the English forces complete their conquest in Palestine and hold it until peace, a peace that found Germany able to work her will in Russia would conceivably have been made at a peace table on which Palestine and similar occupied territories would figure as the coin of barter.

And in the case of Palestine, its restoration to Turkey might, and quite probably would, have been stipulated by the German commissioners. This stipulation of theirs would have two objects. The ostensible one would be to satisfy the claims of Germany's allies, the Turks, as a matter of penitential dealing among cobelligerents. This, of course, calls up an edifying historical painting of the Kaiser, self-selected representative of the Christian God on earth, handing Palestine back to Islam on grounds of honor; but the painting might be one of a considerable gallery. For years the Kaiser's emissaries caused it to be bruited about among the more ignorant Turks that he is himself a Moslem; that has even been a funny story, told in the columns of *The Sun*, that the Kaiser, after the war, had looked forward to his arrival at Constantinople with his harem, riding on and escorted by the captured British Grand Fleet!

**Rival to Suez Canal.**  
The real object would be the same as that of the once proposed Berlin to Bagdad railroad. That road would have been a direct German commercial route by land and water to the East, and it depended on German control of the Mittel-Europa clean to the Persian Gulf, rivaling the Suez Canal commercially while menacing it strategically and so preparing the amputation of India and Egypt.

curve and approach the Syrian coast; it passed through the city and province of Aleppo, which is directly north of Palestine, and near. Palestine must be German, or under German influence. As matters stood, Palestine must remain a Turkish possession.

But there has been contemplated still another German route of commerce and conquest with similar bearings, an all-water route, to be opened by connecting the Mediterranean with the Euphrates-Tigris river system by a ship canal across the Aleppo region. This canal would short circuit Suez as the railroad was meant to do, by the distance down the Red Sea and along the end of the Arabian peninsula, which is 600 miles. Within the last year Delbruck and other German publicists have been clamoring that Germany must at all hazards forestall Great Britain in Palestine, not only to safeguard the railway, but also to insure the digging of the canal.

Delbruck's warning seems to have been called forth by the news (it amounted to an official announcement) that the English leaders, Lloyd George, Asquith, and Balfour, with Lord Bryce, were sympathetic to the Zionist scheme as the British army neared Jerusalem. Indeed, Delbruck did not say merely that the British must be forestalled in Palestine. He said, specifically, that they must be prevented from setting up a Jewish state there. Of course he meant the Zionist state, which the German professor saw as a pawn in the future play of the British empire.

And when you allow for the Ger-

many comes to the peace table prepared to submit to much in the way of dictation of terms, and the realization of Zionism fairly soon after the war is seen to be almost assured. The Zionists consider that the United States and Great Britain are committed in its favor; the latter by expressions from her statesmen which have been mentioned, the former by President Wilson's words on the rights of small nationalities to free development and opportunity to "rule and dispose of themselves."

Here in passing may be mentioned a grotesque idea which found the light in Rome directly after Jerusalem was taken. Pope Benedict was announced by the Vatican "intensely gratified" as was natural. The same cable message said that he did not approve of suggestions that he leave Rome and reestablish the seat of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy City. A thought of romance and poetry, almost as extravagant as that dream of the ultra-Zionists, who would disavow all the Jews of the world from the lands of their adoption and crowd them with a shoe horn into Palestine!

Just what have been the sufferings of the forty-five colonies there since the summer of 1914 and what is their present condition no one in this country completely knows. They hold about 3 per cent of the arable lands. They were in good case, and they are steadily improving. Only 40 per cent of the Jews in Palestine were dependent in 1914 upon the Chalkukah (charitable fund from alien Jews), as against 80 per cent thirty years before.

They had all kinds of modern schools up to the university stage, including a first rate agricultural experiment station at Haifa. They had a system of modern banks, and courts so good that even the Arabs often preferred them to the local Turkish courts, which were notoriously corrupt.

Their numbers had increased since 1880, when the first self-governing colonies were planted as a nucleus, from about 36,000 to 160,000. They

looked forward to a rapid increase to come, although for this they relied on foreign Jewish help, because the Arab landowners, alive to the situation, had booted farm land prices to a scale that compared with real estate in New York.

The Entente blockade in the Mediterranean worked one of their first war time hardships. It stopped the importation of petroleum, and petroleum was the fuel that drove the irrigating pumps. As has been explained, a great share of the Palestine farm country is utterly dependent on irrigation. From this cause and the other causes operating everywhere to oppress the poor since the war, general poverty and necessity followed. Early in 1916 at least one Zionist colony, the chief one, was reported on the verge of ruin.

As to actual persecution by the Turks, ugly rumors began trickling through in the spring of 1915. The Turks denied it officially. In this country Count von Bernstorff endorsed the denial and announced that sporadic offenders were being punished. It was part of the Count's job at the time, which was the winning and maintaining of American good opinion for the German cause.



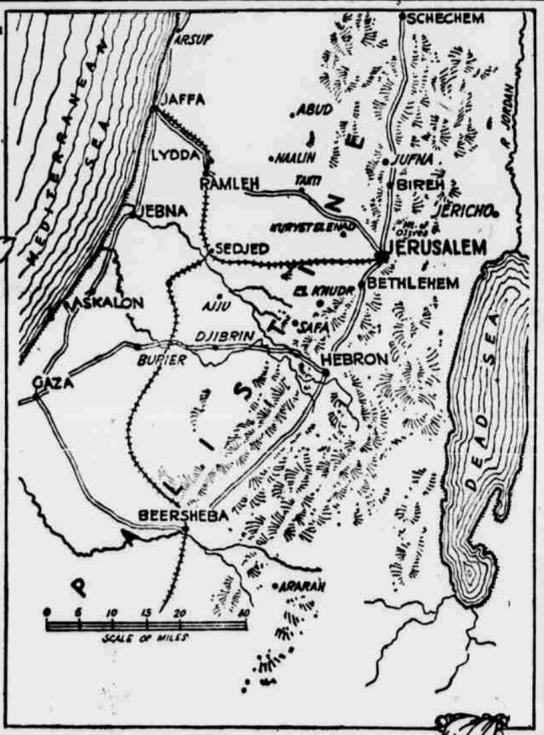
A RECENT PICTURE OF JERUSALEM TAKEN FROM THE TOWER OF DAVID. IN THE CENTER IS THE MOSQUE OF OMAR AND, BEYOND THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, NOTE THE BRANCH OF THE DEUTSCHE BANK IN FOREGROUND.



HENRY MORGENTHAU, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY, AND A LEADER IN THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.



GEN. ALLENBY, THE CONQUEROR OF JERUSALEM.



MAP OF THE HOLY LAND. THE BRITISH NOW HOLD ALL THE REGION UP TO A LINE BETWEEN JAFFA AND JERUSALEM.

### Jerusalem Fought Over for Centuries, Richard the Lion Hearted's Crusade Being Britain's Previous Great Drive

By MAY BOSMAN.

FOR the second time in history an English army has marched on Jerusalem. Richard Cour de Lion at the head of his knights and men at arms did it in 1191, and after capturing Acre and Jaffa (or Joppa), "the key to Jerusalem," was stopped short of taking the Holy City itself. Gen. Allenby with his airplanes, tanks and giant guns was, in November, 1917, as near to—and as far from—attaining his object as Richard in July 728 years before. The whole world waited breathless. Was history about to repeat itself completely?

Many straws in the wind pointed to hope. The modern Turk may be said to be no fair equivalent for Saladin, a warrior and a gentleman, according to the old records in Latin of that doughty enemy of Christianity in the East. Saladin, who opposed Richard, finally forced him to the treaty that abandoned Jerusalem to the infidel.

But Allenby fought alone; he was not harassed and impeded by envious allies who spoiled his best laid and noblest plans. If analogy here was demanded, Russia as England's ally is nearest comparison to Richard's thorns in the side. Russia by her military debacle killed the converging plan of campaign in Palestine, as every one knows. In this, which is now ancient history, analogy can be carried but a little way.

desert is a place of madness. No Western commander wants to tempt fate upon its wild expanses.

So, for well over three thousand years invading hosts have done pretty much what the British troops of 1191 did and those of 1917 are doing; they have clung to or near the coast where water was to be had and ships could bring up supplies to them. They have forced their way north from a port, conquering cities and territory in their progress; or they have marched south from another port.

When a coast region was subjugated they sidestepped inland and took a few towns within supply distance of the coast. Thus, with Gaza safe to them, the present British forces took Beer-sheba, twenty-eight miles southeast of Gaza; with Acre in their hands, Bethlehem and Hebron were swept upon by the restless right wing of their northward going army; Jaffa and Jerusalem, fifty-four miles distant by railroad, their undeviating object was to capture, one by one, the five intermediate railroad stations on the way of their inland movement and finally, at the terminus of the line, Jerusalem itself.

**In Richard's Time and Now.**  
For who holds Jerusalem has a better chance to hold all Palestine. Jerusalem and Hebron stand high above the Mediterranean and command the surrounding country. Thus, but particularly Jerusalem, have long been points of strategic importance. The Turks and Germans knew that. Hence the tortuous progress of the English from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

Gen. Allenby's troops entered Palestine at Port Said and worked their way up the coast. The Turks had made two unsuccessful raids on the Suez Canal. Said the English, it did not do to defend the Suez by standing there and waiting for the Turk to come again. Rather was it the part of wisdom to assume the offensive and go out to meet him, that he might not be able to come down.

Richard Cour de Lion came into Palestine by way of Acre. Outside the harbor he sank a Saracen vessel laden with provisions for the Moslems, and he entered the harbor as a conqueror. To subjugate Palestine he marched along the coast, but wherever spies brought him news of a rich caravan approaching or passing. He went to attack it for spoil, and when a city was his he was not content to hold what he had taken. He turned his eyes about for new areas to conquer—and to despoil.

Each Crusade was a separate and individual campaign, not part of a pre-conceived plan. The present campaign in Palestine is really part of a wide encircling movement in conjunction with the British and Russian forces in Mesopotamia and with the Russian army in southwestern Russia itself. It has nothing to do with plunder and adventure. The day of adventure is past, and the hour of despoliation is Germany's. Englishmen are fighting for honor and duty's sake, to protect their empire and the East.

Constantinople was doubtless one the pivot toward which they were tending, a pivot no longer within vision, now that the Russian collapse has happened. The Palestine programme may still break up into individual improvements against the Turk, as in Richard's day. But what General Allenby and Marshall (the late Gen. Maude's successor) take they hold; they advance toward some definite goal.

With all this Richard's march and Allenby's are allied. They come together at Jaffa, from which Richard's men covered the present British route down to Acre, but going in the opposite direction. The soldiers of the Third Crusade then advanced on Beit-Nuba, ten miles nearer Jerusalem. If they had pushed on they, the Christian crusaders, would have been there. But supplies and reinforcements had to be awaited from Acre.

When they came it was too late. At this distance across the centuries the reason for the English king's retreat from Jerusalem is not altogether clear. But withdrawal he did. He returned to Acre and entered into a treaty with his adversary, Saladin.

trigue—a measure of the intention to exploit Zionism after the war for joint political ends.

In short these things seem clear. In 1914 the Jewish colonies in Palestine were a promising foundation for the Zionist State to be built upon.

Under the war they have suffered great damage; they are now in a very bad way and require relief.

What is to become of them and of Zionism itself for a long time altogether depends on the degree to which Germany is beaten. If Germany can do it she will block the way when peace comes for the sake of her imperial designs upon Asia and Africa.

History, however, did not completely repeat itself. With the suspension and speculation at an end, and twentieth century British troops in possession of Jerusalem, we may turn back with interest to a more detailed comparison of the two campaigns. Few realize how closely of a piece they are. But they do resemble each other as all military campaigns in this corner of Syria resemble each other.

There can be no new plan of campaign when an army sets out to wrest Palestine from the hands of an enemy. The very nature of Syrian topography precludes the possibility of it.

**One Road of Conquest.**  
Palestine's long history has made this an axiom, and Palestine has indeed a long history. The Old Testament is essentially the literature and the record of ancient Palestine; an Oriental work, entirely in harmony with Oriental thought and reasoning and all set with Eastern customs.

Along the coast of the Mediterranean Palestine is fertile and sunny; a fair match for California. It is backed by mountains in rows, one crowding upon another, beyond which stretches the Arabian desert, with swift riding hostile tribes and waterless, hopeless days and nights. The

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