



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1921—5682.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

LEADER: . . . In Blunderland pp. 7-8
 JAFFA: The Commission's Report. Full Text pp. 20-22, 27, 28 & 30-34

SPECIAL ARTICLES:—
 In the Communal Armchair. By "Mentor."
 The *Yom Kippur* Declaration p. 9
 The Letters of Benamit—CIVIL Religious Ceremonial and Economic Necessity p. 16

A SERMON FOR THE WEEK:—
 The Purpose of the Jew in History p. 23

CORRESPONDENCE:—
 The Ban-ruptcy of the Board. (Mr. Delissa Joseph) p. 14
 Association for Protection of Girls. (Mr. A. R. Moro) p. 15
 "A Plea for the Old Testament." (Rev. G. Friedlander and Mr. S. Jackson) p. 15
 The *Simchat Torah* Protest. (Mr. Raphael Nahon) p. 16
 "A Rationale of Anti-Semitism." (Mr. Louis Golding) p. 23
 "Prejudice in the Law Courts." (Mr. A. W. Sale) p. 25
 The Federation of Women Zionists. (Miss Ginsberg) p. 35
 Hebrew in Palestine. (Rev. I. Raffalovich) p. 36

Jewish Religious Union: Conference pp. 17-19

The Week p. 10
 Foreign and Dominion News pp. 10-12
 Obituary and Wills pp. 13-14
 Jewish National Movement pp. 20-22, 27 & 28 & 30-35
 Jewish Cookery p. 25
 Jewish Friendly Societies p. 25
 Music and Drama p. 26
 Provincial News pp. 36-38
 News in Brief pp. 38-40

CHILDREN'S SECTION: "YOUNG ISRAEL." p. 40

IN BLUNDERLAND.

THE Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Jaffa disturbances is an alluring document. Indeed, it casts far more light upon the spirit and the mentality of some of those who are charged with the administration of Palestine than it does upon the actual events which it was appointed to examine. For that reason we are reprinting the document at considerable length and practically in full. A study of it will show to the reader more clearly than anything which hitherto has come to light, something of the real barrier that has to be overcome if Jewish Nationalism, or any sort of Zionism worthy of the name, can win through. The Palestine Administration has been set up by Great Britain to carry out the Mandate that is being entrusted to this country by the League of Nations. That Mandate is chiefly a direction to the Mandatory Power so to govern Palestine as to fulfil the promise of the Balfour Declaration and to establish in Palestine the Jewish National Home. The Jaffa Report tells us in language even more unmistakable than if it were said directly, the sort of Jews whom the authorities contemplate as the right ones to build up the projected Home. They are to have nothing of the fine spirit of an Isaiah, of a Zechariah, of an Ezra, or even of a Nehemiah, though the HIGH COMMISSIONER himself, anyway at one time, was enamoured of the career of that Jewish Nationalist as one upon which it were best, fitting to mould the mission of his high office. The spirit of the Maccabees must be taboo, while all the enthusiasm engendered by the matchless devotion of twenty centuries to an ideal sanctified by the unparalleled martyrdom of our People, is to be repressed as though it were little less than a sin and something more than folly. The Jews who go to form the new *Yishub* are to be passing lowly, and their humbleness is to be reckoned as their most promising characteristic. They are expected, in fact, to be a race of Brer-Rabbis who are "to lie low and say nuffin." They are to scamper into Palestine quietly, silently, secretly—somehow; guised as missionaries seems the most hopeful mask, since Sir HERBERT SAMUEL has taken care that while restrictions apply to virtually all other classes of immigrants, (except those who are materially independent), the Missionaries may go in without let or hindrance. And this strange and utterly alien manner is to be assumed by the Jews who go into Palestine, because any other is sure to tease the Arabs!

How else are we to explain the first of the findings of the Jaffa Commission which is placed at the head of the summary of its conclusions? We are told that in the view of the Commission the fundamental cause of the Jaffa riots was the feeling of discontent and hostility to the Jews in consequence of the Zionist

policy of the Government as expounded by Jewish exponents. Was there ever such an egregious finding made by any Committee of Investigation? Examine it for a moment, and see what its implications amount to. The conception of Zionist policy as derived by the Commission or the Arabs—or both—from Jewish exponents is referred to in the Report itself. THE JEWISH CHRONICLE is "scored," as the Americans term it; so is Palestine; so is Mr. SIDEBOTHAM; so is Mr. JABOTINSKY for a letter he sent to the *Times*, as well as for a sentence that appears in his *Keren Hayesod* book; and so is Dr. EDER, the head of the Zionist Commission. Yet none of the quotations which the Commission records against us and our fellow-criminals can be deemed a title as exacerbating to Arabs, who are in revolt either of themselves or as the tools of others, against British policy in Palestine, as the speech of Mr. BALFOUR at the Albert Hall. Yet that speech the Commission does not quote. Apparently Arabs read the *Keren Hayesod* book, and we are not surprised to learn, are diligent students, like most other people interested in Jewish matters the world over, of the JEWISH CHRONICLE. They are impressed by what Mr. JABOTINSKY has to say, by what Dr. EDER thinks, and by what Mr. SIDEBOTHAM writes. But the words of the author of the Declaration, to demonstrate against which they have just murdered a few more Jews in Jerusalem, either failed to reach their tents, or they consider them of insufficient value to be influenced by them!

But all this elaborate quoting by the Commission seems to us to miss the mark. Suppose it has diagnosed the cause of Arab discontent. If any disturbance anywhere is to be excused because, forsooth, the disturbers disagree with the policy of the Government to which they owe allegiance, we should be far along the path that would lead to a universal idea far worse than Bolshevism—to naked, sheer Nihilism. The business of a Government is to keep order within the sphere of its government, and to keep in order particularly those who, being in hostility and discontent with the policy the Government is set up to pursue, show a disposition to disorder. In this Palestine case, according to the findings of the Commission, the authorities knew nothing of, or vastly under-estimated, Arab discontent, and by reason of this negligence—apparently they do not read even the JEWISH CHRONICLE—they left themselves in ignorance of what the Commission assigns as the cause of that discontent. And the Commission not alone whitewashes the grave dereliction of the first essential duties of the authorities, but seeks to shift the responsibility on to those whom they think might (by explaining it) have caused the Arabs to dislike British policy, which policy places the authorities where they are. Imagine the wild animals in a Zoological Gardens suddenly springing out of their cages and killing a number of spectators, and a Commission, appointed to enquire into the causes of the disaster, reporting first and foremost that these animals were discontented with and hostile to the visitors who had come to see them! As if it were not the first business of the keepers to keep; to know the habits and disposition of the animals, and to be sure that the cages were secure!

This finding of the Commission is not merely a paltry excuse that will not stand a moment's examination in validity, it is also an attempt to do precisely what the Arabs have done all along—to drown the Balfour Declaration in blood and to buy off Zionism with outrage. It is the expression of Palestine officialdom and of its dislike of the Government's Zionist policy. These officials have got "one in" against the Jews, because, as the Report at one point gives us to infer, they find it easier to govern Arabs than Jews. What, however, does the Report show with a clearness that is indisputable? A trumpety band of Communist labourers—a mere handful—appear to have organised themselves in Palestine as far back as November last year. Their presence was known to the authorities as well as the nature and danger of their propaganda. Little, however, seems to have been done to check them, and still less to suppress them. But the authorities, some time before the fatal 1st of May, knew that, as is the wont of Labour Organisations throughout Europe and America, the Labour Organisations in Palestine including the "Mopsis," as the Communists are known, proposed to demonstrate by holding a meeting. Although a mere tyro in the art of government would have thought it possible that, having regard to the conditions in Palestine; these labour meetings might have caused considerable disturbance, the fact did not dawn upon them. So careless in fact were they—the Commission calls it optimistic!