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SECRET

ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL

SUMMARY.

Army G.S.

PART I - - - - - West of JORDAN.

PART II - - - - - East of JORDAN.

(With map of Turkish Administrative Divisions.)

Compiled and issued by Intelligence Branch, G.H.Q., E.E.F. - March, 1918.

PART I.

WEST OF JORDAN

NOTE ON ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION WEST OF
THE JORDAN.

SUPPLIES.

The district which will be encountered immediately ahead of our line west of Jordan to the coast is not productive of cereals to any large extent, and further north, depends mostly on the wheat-growing districts of the trans-Jordan HAURAN. It is not, therefore, to be expected that any large stores of cereals will be met with. It is rather an olive and fruit growing country as far as NABLUS, in the vicinity of which, however, wheat is largely grown in normal times. Cattle will not be found in any quantities, but sheep and goats are reported to be raised in most villages. The Jewish colonies as detailed in attached tabulated list mostly grow a certain amount of wheat, but it is doubtful whether any of last year's crop is now available.

Generally speaking, therefore, very little assistance in the matter of supplies can be anticipated, and none at all in the matter of transport.

Refugees report the food problem in NABLUS very acute. Owing to seizure of animals, practically no winter crop was sown. Wheat flour is sold at P.T. 16 per rotl (6 1/3 lb.)

There is little timber to be found South of NAZARETH, and not much even there. Oak scrub for firewood may be found here and there.

CROPS.

In nearly every case the winter sowings have been considerably restricted by the lack of animals for ploughing, so that the prospects of a normal crop of wheat and barley this summer are poor. There is still a chance that the spring sowings of durra may to some extent relieve the situation, but here again the tillage which should now be in progress is much handicapped by the lack of the necessary animals.

The most important cereal district is known as the plain of ESDRAELON, which lies within the triangle whose three points are JENIN, AFULEH, and HAIFA.

Normally the vicinity of NABLUS is a wheat producing district, together with the low lying lands around BEISAN, and villages immediately South of the lake of TIBERIAS. North of this, the district known as SAHEL EL BATTAL, between the lake of TIBERIAS and HAIFA, and the country East of the sandy strip between HAIFA and ACRE, also produce wheat. The NAZARETH district is almost entirely confined to olive cultivation. Generally speaking, olives are grown everywhere between JERUSALEM and BEYROUTH. In normal times, large quantities of olive oil are consumed at NABLUS in the manufacture of soap.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS	GENERAL
1000 Mos & Chris	Friendly	<u>ABEILIN</u> Stores of oil and olives	No wheat	200 houses
12000 Mos.	Hostile	<u>ACRE.</u> Doubtful	Unknown	Seat of Sanjak Walled Town.
1000 Mos. & some Jews.	Doubtful	<u>AFULEH</u> Stores of grain probably	-	Beside railway.
700 Chris.	Friendly	<u>AIL ABOON.</u> Doubtful	Little cul- tivation.	Greek Catho- lics.
350 Bedwadi Moslems	Hostile	<u>AINITHA.</u> see BINT ULL JUBEIL		
750 Mos.	Friendly	<u>AIN LAHIL.</u> Grain centre possible stores	Little cul- tivation	High position Faces Mount Tabor.
formerly 500 Mos.	Friendly	<u>AIN SINYA.</u> None	Uncultiv- ated.	Partly evac- uated.
500 Mos.	Neutral	<u>ALUT.</u> Unknown	Unknown	Population rather anti- German.
1000 Mos.	Friendly	<u>ANEPTA.</u> Probably small stores grain.	Sown to wheat - Fair.	Large well- built vill- age.
600 Mos.	Friendly	<u>ARARA.</u> Doubtful	Sown to wheat and barley - Fair.	
2000 Mos.	Hostile	<u>ARRABEH</u> Probable stores of grain.	Unknown	Influential landowners. grain centre.
= 2 =				

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS	GENERAL.
<u>ARRABET EL BATTAL.</u>				
700 Mos.	Hostile.	Unknown	Unknown	Stone houses
<u>ATHLIT.</u>				
100 Mos.	Friendly	Some vegetables	Sown to vegetables and wheat. 1400 acres in 1915.	Malarial. Mos. v. hostile to Germans at HAIFA. Wild bear shooting.
<u>ATTIL.</u>				
1000 Moslems.	Friendly	Small stock grain	good	-
<u>BAKA (GHARBIYE)</u>				
250 Mos.	Friendly	Small stores of wheat reported.	Fertile district sown to wheat and durra.	
<u>BEISAN</u>				
2000. Chiefly Mos. friendly some Jews.	Fairly friendly	Reported large storage centre for wheat.	District all sown to cereals - good.	Mudiriah town intimately connected with eastern Arabs.
<u>BEIT JENN & YEMMA.</u>				
300 Jews	Friendly	Doubtful	5000 acres sown to cereals in 1915.	
<u>BEIT LAHL.</u>				
400 150 Germans 250 Moslems	wants careful watching	Nil.		
<u>BEIT LID.</u>				
300 Mos.	Friendly	Mostly olive plantations.		
<u>BELED ESH SHEIKH.</u>				
500 Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful	Unknown	
<u>BIDIE</u>				
600 Mos.	Friendly	Reported largely sown to wheat & barley	good	A rich village.
<u>BINT UM JUDEIL.</u>				
800 Chiefly Mos.	Fairly friendly	Market centre for donkeys, horses, mules. Grain and Tibn storage centre.		

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
		<u>BURCA.</u>		
900 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Small stores wheat	Fair.	
		<u>BURKIN.</u>		
1500 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Olives plenti- ful	No wheat grown	British Mission
		<u>DEIR ESTIE.</u>		
1200 Mos.	Friendly	Stores of grain probable	good	Rich village.
		<u>DEIR HANNA.</u>		
500 Chief- ly Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful		Walled town. Catholic School well built old houses.
		<u>DALIET KURNAL</u>		
300 Druses. 100 Mos.	Friendly	Unknown	Unknown	Laurence Oli- phant (d.1888) lived here.
		<u>DEBOUREY.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Friendly	Probable grain stores	good	Commerce with monks of Tabor
		<u>ENDOR.</u>		
500 Mos.	Conserva- tive. Not v. friendly	Nil.	No cultiva- tion.	Small dirty village.
		<u>ESFIA.</u>		
600 Druses	Friendly	Olives and veg- etables		
		<u>FARRATHIE.</u>		
500 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Olive stores. No grain. Best olives come from this neighbourhood.		Healthy place.
		<u>FULEH.</u>		
500 Jews.	Friendly	Doubtful		Large stable accommodation.
		<u>HAIFA.</u>		
25000 Mos. Chris. Jews.	Friendly	Probable large stores wheat.	good	Large German colony. All Jews Germanised (See special note.)

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
		<u>HARITHEYEH.</u>		
200 Mos.	Uncertain	Nil	No cultivation	Poor village.
		<u>HEFZIBAH.</u>		
20 Jews.	Friendly	Nil	1200 acres sown to wheat in 1915	
		<u>HUWAREH.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Negligible	Not cultivated	Half population said to have emigrated North
		<u>IKSAL.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Friendly	Probable grain stores.	Extensive cultivation.	
		<u>JALUD.</u>		
150 Mos.	Friendly	Charcoal. Possible grain stores		Small village of charcoal burners.
		<u>JEIDA.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Probable grain store Used to grow tobacco		1 two-storied house belonging to an Englishman named Twonnie.
		<u>JERMAIN.</u>		
300 Mos.	Friendly	Olive plantation	No wheat raised.	Seat of Nahio.
		<u>JENIN</u>		
2500 Mos.	Mixed.	Doubtful, used to have small number oxen and buffaloes	Little cultivation.	Important town Seat of Caza. Hotel. Large modern steam
		(flour mill. Old glassware from Hebrew times dug up here. Amin Ahmed Abdul Hadi - principal man. Mustafa Abushi - head of large family. Dishara Atallah (Christian).)		
		<u>JISH.</u>		
500 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Nil.		Poor village.
		<u>KAISARIE.</u>		
400 Bosnian Mos.	Friendly	Scanty	Unknown	50 Red roofed houses.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS	GENERAL
		<u>KALKILIEH</u>		
4000 Mos. & Jews.	Unfriendly & Unwilling	Oranges. Wheat grown in dis- trict. Report- ed supply de- pot S. of pri- son near wall.	Winter sowing reported good. Spring sowing now in pro- gress.	Supply contro for eggs.
		<u>KAKON.</u>		
2000 Mos.	Friendly	Probable grain stores	District re- ported v. fer- tile & sown to wheat and barley.	
		<u>KEFR HARIS</u>		
300 Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful	Fair	
		<u>KEFR KADDUL.</u>		
1200 Mos.	Friendly	Reported 3½ tons barley, wheat & maize.	good	
		<u>KEFR KANNA</u>		
600 Cir- cassians	Hostile	Probably grain stores	Fertile	Well to do village.
		<u>KEFR KANNA.</u>		
1000 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Nil.		Lives on charity.
		<u>KEFR KARA.</u>		
600 Mos.		Possibly small quantities of grain.	good.	
		<u>KEFR MENDA.</u>		
500 Mos.	Hostile	Probably grain stores from SAH- EL EL BATTAL.		
		<u>KEFR SABA.</u>		
120 Mos.	Signalled unfriendly	No wheat grown Olives, almonds abundant plan- tations.	1500 acres under olives & almonds.	Population possibly much in- creased by influx fr. JAFFA
		<u>KEFR SEPT.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful	Wheat sown	Inhabitants Meghrabis fr. Algeria.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS	GENERAL
		<u>KEFR YUSUF.</u>		
1500 Mos. & Chris.	very friendly	Some stores of olives and grain fr. plain of ACRE.	Unknown	
		<u>KERKUR.</u>		
50 Jews.	Friendly	Nil	District sown to wheat. 3000 acres in '15	Small mud hamlet.
		<u>KULUNSAWE.</u>		
600 Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful	District reported fertile (ABDEL RAHMAN JAIYUSSI.	Probably some barley with
		<u>KULIEH.</u>		
600 Mos.	Friendly	Doubtful		Abdul Rahman Shoikh of Beni Sakhr Tribe lives here.
		<u>KUR.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Reported 10 tons wheat, barley & maize.	Good.	
		<u>LIKTERA.</u>		
300 Jews.	Friendly	Small vegetable supply. District produces cereals, fruits and eucalyptus.	6500 acres under cultivation.	Largely Russian Jews.
		<u>LUBIEH.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Hostile & dangerous	Nil.		
		<u>MALUL</u>		
800 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Possible grain stores from plain of Esdraelon.		
		<u>MASSUD, Shoikh.</u>		
25 Mos.	Friendly	Reported small store of wheat and durra.		
		<u>MEIRON.</u>		
500 Mos. & some Jews.	Friendly	Nil.	Little cultivation.	Pilgrimage shrine of Jews.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
<u>MIGDEL.</u>				
100 Jews	Friendly	Some vegetables	1200 acres sown to wheat 1915. (speaks French, intelligent and honest.	Settlement be- longing to com- pany. Manager Glickin 45.
<u>MESHAD.</u>				
500 Mos.	Friendly	Nil.	Little cul- tivated	Poor.
<u>MESHAF.</u>				
250 Jews	Friendly	Should be grain stores.	2000 acres vineyards in 1915. (understands a little French.	Electric power- house. ABRAHAM ROTHSTEIN local horse dealer
<u>MOGHAR.</u>				
1000 Mos. & Chris	Friendly	Should be grain & olive stores		Druses & Greek Catholics and Mos. Wealthy.
<u>MUJEIDAL.</u>				
1500 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Should be grain stores.		Large village with Christian Community. 150 (well-built houses.
<u>MUKTEBILEH.</u>				
500 Chiefly Moslems.	Friendly	Nil.		Of military im- portance owing to situation.
<u>NAHF.</u>				
500 Mos.	Uncertain	Olivea plentiful		
<u>NAZARETH.</u>				
15000 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Doubtful		5000 Moslems. 10000 Christians. Seat of Caza.
<u>NEIN.</u>				
500 Mos.	Friendly	Nil	Figs and apricots under cul- tivation.	very poor. 20 Christians.
<u>RAFIDIA.</u>				
500 Chris.	Friendly	Doubtful	Fortile district.	C.M.S. School.
<u>RAHEH.</u>				
1000 Chris.	Friendly	Big Olive oil centre.	No grain cultiva- tion.	Druso and Chris- tian village. Well built houses.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
		<u>REINER.</u>		
1000 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Negligible.	Fertile district	80 well-built houses
		<u>RUMMANEH.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Some grain possibly.		Houses of stone.
		<u>SAWIE, ES.</u>		
300 Mos.	Friendly	Nil	Fertile district reported under cultivation for wheat.	
		<u>SEBASTIE.</u>		
500 Mos.	Fanatical & hostile	Probably small stores wheat.	good	
		<u>SEFFURIEH</u>		
2500 Mos. & Chris.	Moslems fanatical	Said to be large grain stores.		Large village with conspicuous castle.
		<u>SELFIT.</u>		
2000 Mos.	Friendly	Probably stores of grain.	Reported good	Important town seat of Gaza. Supply centre.
		<u>SHAIB.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Uncertain	Possibly grain stores but very small.		
		<u>SHEFEIA</u>		
50 Jews.	Friendly	Nil	District sown to wheat. 1200 acres in 1915.	
		<u>SHEFR ALR.</u>		
2500 more than 50% Christians.	Friendly	Olives only		
		<u>SHEIKH ABREIK.</u>		
500 Mos.	Uncertain	Grain stores in numerous large caves. connected with Germans.		30 flat-roofed houses. Sacred shrine with conspicuous white cupola.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
		<u>SHEJERAH.</u>		
200 Jews	Friendly	Some vegetables and wheat. Cattle brooders.	3500 acres un- der cultiva- tion in 1915.	good houses.
		<u>SHUTTA.</u>		
500 Mos.	Friendly	Numerous subter- ranean grain stores.	No report.	Village looks poor but is not.
		<u>SILY.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Friendly	Fruit and almond trees.		well built stone houses.
		<u>SUKHNIN.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Friendly	Grain centre. Should be stored.	well cultiv- ated.	Rich village.
		<u>TANTURAH.</u>		
1200 Mos.	Friendly	Small stores wheat. Vegetables grown by Jews.		Anchorage for sailing boats.
		<u>TIDERIAS.</u>		
3000 Ger- man Jews.	Doubtful	Fruit & vegetables some cereals.	Consider- able culti- vation.	Well built stone houses. Very dir- ty place. Walled sulphur baths. Greek Convent.
		<u>TIBNIN.</u>		
2000 Mos. & Jews.	Friendly	Some stores of wheat probably.	All under cultivation.	Connected with America. Much English spoken.
		<u>TIREH, ET.</u>		
1000 Mos.	Friendly	Water melons & figs when ripe. Wheat also grown.	Not good.	
		<u>TORAN</u>		
700 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Reported grain stores.	Fertile	50 houses
		<u>TUL KERAN</u>	see special note.	
		<u>UMM EL AEED</u>	see BEIT LAHM.	

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL.

JMM EL UAM.				
1500 Mos. & Chris.	Friendly	Doubtful	Portilo dis-	
JMM KHALID (MUKHALID).				
50 Mos.	Friendly	Nil	Only water melons raised.	
JMM EL JAMAL.				
80 Jews.	Friendly	Nil.	1500 acres sown to wheat, 1915.	
WARAKANY.				
700 Mos.	Friendly	Possibly some grain.		
YAFFA.				
700 Chief- ly Chris.	Friendly.			C.M.S. Girls' School. Latin Mission. 2 Latin Churches. Greek Church & School
YARUN.				
700 Motwali Moslems.	Hostile	Nil		Good houses. 150 Catholics.
ZIMLARIN.				
1000 Jews.	Friendly	Small stores wheat & vegetables. Also barley.	(Area culti- vated 6000 acres, 1915.	Cattle breeders.
ZEPIN.				
1500 Mos.	Friendly	Some wheat.	Said to be well sown to wheat.	Medioval town affords good view.
ZETTA.				
300 Mos.	Friendly	Small quantities wheat and barley.	good.	

POLITICAL

The Turkish Administrative Divisions of the VILAYET of BEYROUTH are as follows, from South to North :-
SANJAK of EL BELKA or NABLUS, SANJAK of AKKA, and
SANJAK of LEBANON.

The further sub-division of the first two of these SANJAKS into KAZAS is as follows :- (vide attached map)

NABLUS - - - { KAZA of NABLUS
 { KAZA of TUL KERAN sometimes known as BENI SAAB
 { KAZA of SELFIT sometimes known as JEMMAIN
 { KAZA of JENIN

AKKA - - - { KAZA of HAIFA
 { KAZA of SAFED
 { KAZA of NAZARETH
 { KAZA of TIBERIAS
 { KAZA of AKKA

KAZAS are in some cases again sub-divided into NAHIES. Taking the above-mentioned KAZAS in their order, the following are their NAHIES :-

KAZAS	NAHIES.
NABLUS - - -	Nil (Kaza comprises NABLUS and 35 surrounding vill-)
TUL KERAN - - -	BENI SAAB - SHARAUYYEH EL GHARBI - WADI ESH SHAMAR (ages.)
SELFIT - - -	JEMMAIN AMWEL - JEMMAIN SANI
JENIN - - -	JENIN - SHARAUYYEH EL SHARKI - MUSHARIK EL JERRAR.
HAIFA - - -	HAIFA - KAISARIE.
SAFED - - -	Nil (Kaza comprises SAFED & 59 surrounding villages.)
NAZARETH - - -	Nil (Kaza comprises NAZARETH & 27 surr. villages.)
TIBERIAS - - -	Nil (Kaza comprises TIBERIAS & 27 surr. villages.)
AKKA - - -	SAFIL - ESH SHAGHUR - SHEFA AMR.

Under the Turkish system a Vilayet is governed by a Vali, a Sanjak by a Mutassarif, a Kaza by a Kaimakan, and a Nahie by a Mudir.

Putting aside the Jewish Colonies as detailed in tabulated list, the population of the SANJAKS of NABLUS and AKKA is preponderatingly MOSLEM.

Although their attitude may be expected to be outwardly friendly to us, their real feelings may perhaps be best expressed in the words of their own Arab proverb, which runs: "I am with my brother against my cousin, but I am with my cousin against the stranger."

The usual network of small villages, with a larger one here and there, each under its Mukhtar, or headman, will be encountered. The more important of these appear in tabulated list. Communities of Circassians and of METAWALI Moslems may be expected to be frankly hostile.

PERSONALITIES

AIL ABOON - HOURI HANNA, priest, reported pro-British.

ANEETA - Sheikh HAMDALLAH, reported anti-Turk. Could be very useful.

ARRABEH - Mukhtar ABDEL AZZIZ, reported anti-Turk.

ATHLIT - Sheikh MOUSSA, old pro-Turk, generally hated.

BALLUT - Sheikh SALEH, reported pro-Turk.

BAKA - HAMDAN Bey HAJ AHMED, reported friendly. Heavy drinker. Violently anti-Turk.

BIDIEH - OMAR HAJ SAID - MOHAMED HAJ SAID reported pro-British.

BURTA - FARIS EL MASSAOUD, reported pro-Turk.

DEIR ESTIE - ABU KHIJLI family useful. Sheikh MOHAMED OSMAN
" YUSEF OSMAN
" ABDEL KADER OSMAN
" ISMAIN OSMAN

HAIFA - Population 25,000 33 1/3 % Moslems. German Colony 2,000 Jews mostly Germanised. Reported population not evacuated, and living not so expensive as in Beyrouth.

Prices end of February :-

1 rotl wheat	- - - - -	P.T. 11.
1 rotl maize	- - - - -	P.T. 8.
1 rotl onions	- - - - -	P.T. 7.

The following are Christians and friendly :-

Khoury family
Abiad family
SELI Rayyib.
Saykaby
Fakhar (2 brothers).
Bakkus.

(N.B. ASSAD BEY SHOUCAIR, assistant of JEMAL Pasha, is from HAIFA).

ABDALLA HAMOUDA. About 55 years. Lawyer. Influential landowner, anti-Turk. Well versed in Turkish Law. Knows all about internal affairs of Deutsche Palestina Bank.

MASUD EL MADI. Of great influence. Lives mostly at HAIFA. Anti-Turk. (Native of IKZIM - 083.U.S.d.)

DAR EL MADI. family of IKZIM, 14 m. S. of HAIFA, Influential family of old robber stock. Own village and much land in district. All anti-Turks and pronounced Anglophiles.

MUSTAFA PASHA EL KHALIL - 60/70. Fanatical Moslem. A shrewd avaricious bloodsucker, much disliked by all.
FARIS EL YASIN. 60. Member of Tribunal. Head of Commission for Military Requisitions. Clever and quite unscrupulous. Very influential.

FAUZI BEY. 35. Turk. Son of Sadik Pasha (brother of Kiamil Pasha). A magnificent brigand. Runs a gang of about 100 ruffians. Intelligent and charming. Lives at ZARGHANIYEH. Very Anglophile.

JEWS.

SABBATAI LEVY. 42. Born Constantinople. Speaks Turkish, Arabic, and French. Agent for Rothschild. Good local knowledge. Very honourable and reliable.

N. KAISERMAN - 50/55 Russian born. Head of Jewish Community. Decent man.

KROLL. - 50. Russian Born. Very intelligent. Not very straightforward, but not dishonest.

AZRIEL. 50. Cashier of Anglo-Palostine Bank.

HAHAM (Rabbi) YEHUDAH LEVY. French protected. Rich Merchant. Much respected, especially by Sephardin Community.

JEMMAIN - Mudir reported pro-British.

KALKILIEH. - Mukhtar IBRAHIM NASSER reported enemy agent.

ABDALLAH SABAH	} report- ed pro- British	Sh. MOHD. EL KASSAN	} report- ed pro- Turk.
ABDEL RAHIM SABAH		Sh. YOUNIS.	
ABDEL KADER SABAH		Sh. IBRAHIM NASSER	
HASSAN AMHAS		ABDEL KARIM	
MOHAMED KUHAS		ABDEL KARIM YUSEF	
SELIM SHAKER		MOHD. SHANTI	
		SAID SHANTI	

KAKON - Sheikh ABDUL LATIF ABU HANTASH and son deported by the Turks, and reported executed by Turks for murder. Remnants of his gang may still be about.

KEFREIN - YUSEF EL ABD EL GAWAD. Influential pro-Turk.

KEFR HARIS - DJABER ALUI WARDAI - Reported pro-British.

KEFR KARA. - Mukhtar ABDALLAH EL AHMED, 50 years old, one-eyed very pro-Turk.

KEFR SABA. - population signalled as hostile.

KEFR THILTH. - ISHAIN SALAMIA reported pro-British.

LUBBAN, EL - Sheikh IBRAHIM HAMAD reported pro-Turk.

NABLUS. - Population 25,000 chiefly MOSLEM. 1870 feet above sea-level. 8 large mosques. Situated on floor of valley between Mt. GERIZIM and Mt. EBAL. Water very plentiful. HOTEL NABLUS of the Hamburg American Line on the road to JAFFA, W. of town. HOTEL SEMARIA adjoins. Accommodation also in LATIN MISSION house on E. side of town. Camping ground W. of town, reached by riding round N. side. Turkish Post and Telegraph Office. Christian Mission. Principal inhabitants :-

Mufti - Sheikh Hussein Eff. Haashim

Cadi - Hourl Eff. (Turk)

Mayor - Haj Taufik Eff. Hamad.

Public Instructor - Sheikh Omar Eff. Zohaitar.

Chief of Council - Naim Eff. Tekhaan.

Chief of Gendarmerie - Mahmud Eff. al Jineinah.

Chief of Police - Bakir ed Din (Turk).

Notables { Sheikh Nimr Eff. Dart.
Amin Eff. Salash
Sheikh Rashid Eff. Bitaar.
Said Eff. Hamamoh.

Principal merchants :-

Nimr Eff. Nabulsi.
Haj Mohamed Eff. Nabulsi.
Haj Ahmed Eff. Nabulsi.
Haj Mohamed Eff. Ghazzani.
Haj Farus Eff. Hamama.

These are all soap manufacturers employing about 800 persons. The normal output is 500 to 1000 tons of soap per annum, according to the olive crop.

Head of Merchant Guild - Bodoui Eff. Ashur (pro-Turk).

Merchants and farmers - Abdel Latif Eff. Abdel Hadi
Haj Hurehid Eff. Abdel Hadi } *occasional*
Haj Shafa Eff. Abdel Hadi }
(pro-English)

The Abdel Hadi clan numbers about 3,000, distributed in NABLUS, JENIN, and ARRABEH.

There is a small colony (40) of Samaritan Jews. They have no influence.

The following have been signalled as pro-Turk and dangerous characters in NABLUS :-

Sheikh Rafat (IMAM).
Shaker Johri (Member of a Commission).
Ahmed Shakkah (Inspector of Taxes)
Mahmud Tahlioni (Crop Survey Commission)
Abdel Kerim el Yusef family.
Tokhan family (most prominent member - Bashir Bey Tokhan) who control following villages :-
ZAWATA (098.H.10.)
KEFR KUS (098.N.17.)
DEIR SHERAB (098.H.7.)
TULLUZA (098.L.29.)
Ashur family (except Yusef Ashur) controlling BEIT IBA (098.H.21.)
Most prominent member Bedawi Ashur.
Hammad family - (also anti-Christian).
Haider el Jusef, controls BURIN (098.V.25.)
El Fahum family - (prominent member is Abdulla Ibn Abdol Mojid, Reia Baladia of NAZARETH. Also anti-Christian.)
Abbas family.
Abu Hama family.
El Bonna family.

The following are signalled as anti-Christian - EL GHAWAZI family (controls KEFR KULLIN (098.V.21.))
JARRAR family.

The following are signalled as pro-English and likely to be of assistance :-

EL HAJ TAHIR HEJAWI (Pay Dept.)
AHMED EFF. IMAM - notable from JAFFA.
GEORGE AYOUB - notable from JAFFA.
SHAFI BEY ABD EL HADI (May have been deported), controls the following villages :-
AWERTA (098.X.11).
SEBUSTIE (098.K.25)
BEIT IMRIN (098.K.21.)

DARI
SHEIKH NIMR ED-DARI (control: SURRA - 098.U.7.)
SHEIKH SAID HAMAH & sons (control: RAFTIMA - 098.U.21)

The following are signalled as neutral :-

NABULSI family (controls HUWARA - 098.X.13.)
KAMAL family (controls AIN ABUS - 098.W.18.)
TAUFIK HAMMAD (controls BEIT UDHEM - 098.H.21.)
landed proprietor. Also owner village of ZAWATA.
Formerly opposed to Young Turks, but was induced by
a friend to join them, and took oath of fidelity to
C.U.P., after which he was elected M.P. for NABLUS.
Is believed however to be fundamentally opposed to
Turkish party. Wheat contractor to Turkish Govern-
ment.

The following are the most important families of
NABLUS :-

ABDEL HADI family

Traditionally the most important family of NABLUS.
Landowners. Very intelligent and not at heart fan-
atical, despite appearances: but very oppressive
towards the peasants, by whom they are feared and
disliked.

IBRAHIM EFF. EL KASIM ABDUL HADI - Relative of RAUF
Abdul Hadi, now member of Sherifian Government of
Mecca. Was arrested and sentenced to death, but
somehow avoided execution. Believed still near NAB-
LUS. Reported by refugee, 14-5-18, to be in prison.
AMIN BEY ABDUL HADI - Cousin of above. Was M.P. for
NABLUS. Strongly anti-Turk. His brother Selim was
executed in summer 1915. Educated and has a Europ-
ean veneer. Very large landed proprietor, and, af-
ter arrest, was released under strict police super-
vision to cultivate his lands and produce food for
the Army. Partner and contractor with Tawfik Ham-
mad (above).

DARI family.

SHEIKH NIMR ED DARI - 50/60. Formerly Mufti, but
dismissed. Clever and untrustworthy. One of the
Ulema. Was arrested and Court-martialled, but ac-
quitted. Jemal had him re-tried. Was convicted,
but subsequently released. Anti-Turk.
SHEIKH OMAR ES ZOWAITAR - 40/50. Secretly strongly
anti-Turk, but on good terms with Jemal. Member of
Administrative Council. Government uses him as
wheat contractor, with warrant to seize wheat. Has
taken full advantage of opportunities of enriching
himself, and is now very influential.

TOKHAM family.

HAIDAR BEY TOKHAM - Formerly M.P.. Used to be
slavishly attached to C.U.P. Probably pro-Turk.
Not very influential.

HAFIZ and ABDEL FATAH TOKHAI - Brothers of above. Richer and more influential. They own village of TUBAS 5000 inhabitants, East of HABLUS.

HASHIM family.

SHEKIB MUNIB HAASHIM - 60. Mufti. Rather influential. Said not to be fanatical. A bon vivant.
KANAL HASHIM - 40/45. Reported honest and capable.
SHAKIR HASHIM - 32. Educated Government School, Constantinople.
MUKHTAR EFF. - Ex-Cadi. Now Head of Municipality.

RAFIDIEH - Mukhtar MOH'D ES SAUD reported pro-Turk. SELIM HOURI & HABIB TOUKHTA reported friendly and useful.

RUMIAMEH - MUSTAFA AHMED PEY, large landowner. Brother reported killed by Turks.

RAFFAT - Sheikh SALEH AYASH & Sheikh YUSEF reported friendly.

SANIRA - Sheikh HAJ AHMED reported pro-Turk.

Sheikh MAHMOUD EL HASSAN	}	reported friendly.
Sheikh MAHMOUD EL YOUSSEF		
AMIN IBN ZALLOOL		
HASSAN FAIS IBN AHMED		
MOUSSA FAIS IBN AHMED		

SEBASTIE - KAMEL ABDEL HADI reported pro-Turk.

<u>TAYYIBEH</u> - ABDEL RAZIK DAHOUD	}	reported friendly.
MOHAMED NASHIF		
ABDEL KADER NASHIF		

TUL KERAM - 2000 to 2500 Moslems. Only recently sprung into importance as seat of Kaza by reason of its position on railway. About 300 Christians. Chief inhabitant ABDEL RAHMAN EFF., Kaimakan of Kaza, signalled as friendly, and likely to be of assistance. Big supply depot reported to exist west of chief mosque, and to contain stores of wheat, durra, and barley. The district is fertile, except to the west, and is reported freely sown to wheat and barley.

ABDEL RAHIM HAKUR - 30/35 Rich and influential, anti-Turk.

ABDEL RAHIM EL JAYYUSI - 50/55. Rich. Member of district Council. Anti-Turk.

ABDEL RAHMAN HAJJ IBRAHIM - 40/45. Head of Municipality. Very pro-Turk. Made Kaimakan by Jomal. Disliked by people.

AHMED EL HAMDULLAH - 60. Member of District Council. Hates Turks, but is clever enough to conceal it, and is therefore favoured by Jomal.

UMM EL FAEL - HASSAN SAID BEY large landowner. Reported friendly.

ZAWIEH - Shoikh MUSTAPHA SHAKOUR reported friendly.

ZEITA - Shoikh AHMED EL MASRI reported pro-Turk.

ZIMMARIN (ZICHRON YACOB).

ISRAEL WEIDERMAN Mukhtar of village. Has only one arm 40 years old. Cunning blackguard without principle. Corrupted by constant contact with Turkish officers & officials. Must be carefully watched. Speaks English and French, and is very affable. Officers should be very careful when talking to him, as he entertains liberally, and is an adept at worming out information.

ALTER GOLDSTEIN. A bad character, influenced by his wife, who has worked for Turkish officers. Both are looked upon as vile hirelings of the Turks.

MR. & MRS. LERIER. The wife (about 38 years old) was very kind to Turkish Officers, and is supposed to have spied for them. Intelligent and unscrupulous. The husband (about 40 years old) is under her influence, and may have been tempted by money to work for the Turks.

FEITELSON. A Russian Jew about 40 years old. Clever a great believer in the Young Turks. Has worked for them for the last two years. Supposed to have written Russian propaganda for the Germans. Will probably exert his influence over Russian Jewry to act in favour of Turkey. Must be watched very carefully.

AHMED BEY. 45 years old. Mudir of CAESAREA. Lives in ZIMMARIN. A fanatical Bosnian, and very clever. very rich. Will probably remain behind to work for the Turks, by whom he is much liked. He was the backbone of the Turkish resistance in this district.

ALI EFF. Lives in a Circassian village E. of LIKTERA (EL HUDEIRA). Bitter fanatic. Preached anti-English propaganda in the district. Hated by everybody, but feared on account of his high standing with the Turkish Government.

BEDUINS. There are not many Beduins in the SAMARIA region, and they have lost contact with their tribal stock from the hills E. of ZIMMARIN.

Beduin family : HAMDON. About 20 tents, large herds of cattle. DRIS EL HAMDON, who died last year at the age of 110 was a great local celebrity. His brother, BESHIR EL HAMDON, is now Shoikh. His son, ALI EL DIAB, has much influence over the Beduins further south. BESHIR and his followers are strongly influenced by AMIN of DAR HAJ MAHMOUD of SUBBARIN. All the HAMDONS are anti-Turk. W. of ZIMMARIN, in the ZOR (swamp) are the HASSAN SAAD, and BENI JOHAR Beduins. HASSAN SAAD is their Shoikh. About 15 tents. Poor and of not much account. Anti-Turk.

On the sands of EL BUREIJ (083.Y.19.d.) there are about 30 tents Turcoman Arabs. Numerous herds of cattle, with them a few tents of the GHANAMI Beduins. The most influential Sheikh is ABD EL GHANI ZARAK. Does not live permanently with the Beduins, but often visits the tribe in the ESDRAELON Valley. The Turcoman Arabs are friendly to the Turks.

SUPPLEMENT to PART I - WEST OF JORDAN.

ECONOMICAL

VILLAGE	POPULATION	STATE OF CROPS.
AMATIN	100 Moslems	unknown.
AMURIE	80 Moslems	fair
Asirat ol Kiblie	500 Moslems	-----
AZZUN	600 Moslems	good
BAKA	600 Moslems	good
Beni Saab		
BALATA	200 Moslems	good
BEIT IBA	100 Moslems	fair
BERUKIN	400 Moslems	good
BIR ADAS	300 Moslems	fair
BURIN	600 Moslems	good
DEIA SHERAF	300 Moslems	good
FUNDUK	20 Moslems	good
HABLEH	200 Moslems	good
IRTEH	100 Moslems	good
JINSAFUT	50 Moslems	good
KEFR EL LEBAD	400 Moslems	good
KEFR SUR	200 Moslems	good
KEFR THILTH	350 Moslems	8 tons corn sown.
KEFR ZIBAD	200 Moslems	good
KURAWA IBN HASSAN	30 Moslems	good
MISKEH	300 Moslems	good
RAMIN	500 Moslems	good
SENIRIEH	500 Moslems	19½ tons corn sown
SURRA	400 Moslems	good
TAIYIBEH	800 Moslems	good
TILL	500 Moslems	good
YASUF	250 Moslems	½ ton corn sown
ZAWIEH	250 Moslems	4½ tons corn sown

N.B. The attitude of all above villages is thought likely to be friendly. As regards supplies, none likely to be found except at TAIYIBEH.

Army G S

P A R T I I

E A S T O F J O R D A N

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NOTE ON ECONOMICAL SITUATION EAST OF JORDAN

SUPPLIES.

A certain amount of wheat and durra may be expected to be found in most of the larger villages East of JORDAN, but these stores will, in all probability, be well hidden, and in any case will only consist of what the Turks have been unable to commandeer. It is known that the Turks have for the past two months been actively engaged in removing cereals northwards from the MADEBA district. Barley and Tibn will, in all probability, not be found at all. Circassian villages, by reason of their pro-Turkish sympathies, may be expected to be the best favoured in the matter of supplies. Cattle are very scarce and of inferior breed, but there appears to be no lack of sheep and goats. There is said to be a good supply of donkeys and camels in the MADEBA market, but prices are high.

CROPS.

All information tends to show that winter sowings, though restricted in some cases owing to shortage of seed, have been up to the average, particularly in the cereal growing districts of JERASH and DERA. The hilly district immediately north of the line SALT-AMMAN is little cultivated and unproductive. Southward from this line, however, to MADEBA and KERAK, the country is nearly all under cultivation, and is reported sown to wheat, barley, and durra. The JORDAN valley is another productive field, but is limited by the hills immediately eastward, where the terrain does not admit of cultivation, save where the WADI ZERKA runs into the Valley.

It must be understood that none of these crops will be available before the month of July.

"EL BALKAH"

Boundary.

North - MAHR ES ZERKA.
South - WADI MOJIB
East - SYRIAN DESERT
West - RIVER JORDAN

The land is owned and cultivated by various Beduin tribes, as well as by the inhabitants of settled villages, and towns, many of whom are Christians.

EDWAN TRIBE (Chief Sheikh SULTAN ALI DIAB) mainly settled cultivators N. and W. of HESBAN.

This tribe, though they have enough grain to supply their own needs till next harvest, complain bitterly of having been severely treated, and robbed, by the Turks,

therefore no grain supplies can be expected from them.

This tribe have smaller flocks of goats and sheep, also cattle; it is computed that they would be willing to sell 200 head of cattle, and 200-500 lambs and kids.

These Beduins are now encamped South of the Wadi HESBAN above GHOR el SWEILI, near Wadi el ADEIME (128.T.Y.), with the exception of SULTAN's Beduins, who are in the mountain around SALUKA ES ZABBUD (142.C.7.d.)

EL GHANAMAT TRIBE (Sheikh SALIA EL KHATEIB and ABDULLAH EDEIS, Sheikhs of the SHAWABKAH).

These Beduins are encamped in WATAT EN NAR (128.F.1-12) and it is estimated that these two tribes will be able to supply 50-100 head of cattle, 400 kids, goats, and lambs, but no grain.

The GHANAMAT are in their own lands, while the EDWAT Tribes used to encamp during the winter months in the JORDAN VALLEY, North and South of SHUNET NIMRIN. They moved on the fall of JERICHO, to get out of the way of the Turks, fearing to be robbed by them.

AWAZIM TRIBE (Sheikh ABU SITTA EL-WANDI) Sub-Tribe of SHAWABKAH.

These are encamped above ARKUB ABU el HASSAN on the road to MAAIN. They have no surplus stock of grain, but possibly have for sale 50 head of cattle, and 400 kids, goats and lambs.

AJARNAH.

Encamped about ARKUB el MOSHAKAR on the road to MAD-EBA around KABR ABDALLA (143.O.7.b.) These have herds of sheep and goats, also cattle. From them might be procured some 80 head of cattle, and 600 lambs and kids. They have no grain.

They are reported as being the only tribe who are pro-Turk in sentiment.

HULEIDAH (Sheikh NURI ABU KAHOD).

Encamping between W. MOJIB and W. ZERKA MAAIN. This is a large tribe, and is rich in cattle and sheep. They probably will have for sale 100 head of cattle, and 600 lambs and kids. Have also spare grain in small quantities.

ADAYAT (Sheikh MINWIR ABU HADDID).

Encamped East of SAHAB (157.Q.7.c.) This is a large rich tribe: have only working cattle, but large flocks of sheep, and it is expected that they will be willing to sell 600 lambs.

DAAJA (Sheikh IMKHAMIR ABU JAMUS) (Small ARNAT Tribe).

These are living among the Adayat above-mentioned.

These are also wealthy, but have no herds of cattle for sale, their wealth being chiefly in sheep. They would have 800 lambs for sale, also many camels.

ABBAD (Sheikh KARIM NAHARI).

Encamped between SALT North to W. ZERKA, and South to Wadi Sir (142.S).

These Beduins are rather poor, but have flocks of sheep, also cattle. It is computed they will have for sale 50 head of cattle, and 200 lambs and goats.

BENI SAMHR TRIBES (Sheikhs HATMAN ABU MUNAWER of ZEBN Section, and METGAL IBN FIEZ.)

These tribes, under normal conditions, spend the Spring months in the open desert east of ZIZA (143.X.19.d.). During the harvest they are to be found about their villages North-east of MADEBA: in the autumn they plough, and when winter sets in they disappear Eastwards into the desert. At present they are reported as being South with the Sherif.

This is a very large rich tribe, their wealth being chiefly in wheat lands and large flocks of camels, and also sheep.

It is computed that they have a surplus of wheat and barley in their villages :- JELUL (143.R.15.b.), ZIZA EZ ZOBAYER, (143. U.35.b.), EL KASTAL (143.U.30.d.), ZOBAYER ADUAN (143.U. 13.centro) UMM EL AMAD (143.N.27.a.), *ET TUNEIB (143.N.17.c.), etc.

It is reported they sold many camels to the Sherif, and still have numbers for sale, and also lambs in thousands, if they are found in a selling mood.

* TUNEIB is hostile, being in the hands of JENAYEB clan, whose Chief, TURKI, is helping the Turks.

C E R E A L S

Prior to the war, MADEBA used to be the centre for the grain buyers. It, with the villages about it, yields large quantities of wheat, barley, and lentils.

The richest farmers are Christians, who are very anti-Turk, and, therefore, have been severely persecuted. Although large quantities of grain have been commandeered from them, still, on account of their fear of the Turks, they have hidden their grain in the ground, and have not offered same for sale lest it should be known what they have.

MAAIN. The inhabitants are Christians, and grow for sale, under normal conditions, 4,000 tabbics a year (1 Tabbic = 18 okes.) It is computed that 600 tabbics of grain can at present be found for sale, i.e. 13 tons, 5 cwt.

MADEBA. Christian inhabitants. The annual yield is about 40,000 tabbics of grain. At present, it is thought little or no grain will be found available.

HAIRBET EL SBAN (about 142.g.1.c.) The property of a rich Moslem known as HAJI FOX EL NABILSY, of SALT, and relatives. Annual yield 15,000 tabbics. It is computed very little will be found for sale.

EL YADUDE (142.K.16.c.). The property of ABU JABIR, a rich Christian family of ES SALT. The annual yield is about 35,000 tabbies. At present not more than 800 tabbies are in store for seed and their own consumption.

KERKET EL BSELRAT or UMR EL KUNDOL. Belonging to the JABIR (Christians) of ES SALT. Annual yield 20,000 tabbies of grain. At present only a small quantity exists, perhaps 600 tabbies: not for sale.

THE NEW CROPS

The above is given with a view to what may be expected at present; the annual yields are given in figures which represent the ordinary yields. Some years, when the crops are good, the crops are larger than here stated.

Before the war, these lands not only sufficed the JERUSALEM district, but large quantities were sent south to ECCA and ED-INA, and north to DAMASCUS and HAIFA.

The forecast for the coming year is that a phenomenal crop is to be expected, especially in the event of protracted rain-falls.

The barley fields in the Jordan Valley are already in ear, and the wheat promises excellent results. On the plateau it is already about 12 inches tall, and of strong growth.

The Beduins, having no large storehouses, are in the habit of selling their grain just after the harvest, and it is only then that the British Government can expect to make large purchases.

GRAIN STOCKS IN THE KERAK DISTRICT.

WHEAT AT KERAK.

A refugee who escaped from HAMA at the end of January reports that the peasants from the vicinity, who went to KERAK to deliver their taxes in grain, state that in the Castle (Crusader) at KERAK, they saw very large stores of Government grain.

The Turks also purchased from the natives large quantities of grain at the rate of 22 Mjedihs in coin for one "Ashraweych" (= about 180 kilos.)

It is believed that most of this has since been moved via KUTRANI on the HEDJAZ Railway to DAMASCUS, as the crops of the HADRAN, it is reported, were a failure this year.

Much of the KERAK wheat was also sent across the DEAD SEA to its Northern end, and then by lorries to ES SALT, and possibly further.

From another source (a wheat merchant) it is computed that 15,000 tabbies of wheat (about 350 tons) are to be found hidden in KERAK as well as 5,000 tabbies, (about 100 tons) of barley and other grain. It is further computed that as much more will be found in the neighbouring villages.

(1 tabbie wheat = about 18 okes)
(1 tabbie barley = about 16 okes)

It must be remembered that these figures are only estimates,

and that the Turks still being there, and being short of grain may be able to bring pressure which will force the owners to dig up their grain from the underground cisterns in which they hide it. Besides, the Turks are now using gold for purchases among the Beduina, an item which must be taken into account.

AGRICULTURE.

HAURAN DISTRICT.

A native reports that in the district of RAKHAN (reference map 1:250,000 - road N.E. from DERAA leading to RAKHAN) only 40% of the land has been sown with wheat and barley. Though the area cultivated is not so great as in previous years, it is estimated that this will be compensated by the excellent crop which is expected this season.

Enquiries on this subject in the HAURAN district are being continued, but from all accounts, and from the prices actually being paid for wheat, it would seem that little more than enough for local requirements will be found.

AJLUN DISTRICT

Unlike the HAURAN district, to the North, which is composed of flat open country, the AJLUN District is mountainous and wooded. Very little grain now remains. Considerable flocks of goats and cattle are owned by the peasantry. Great numbers have been commandeered by the Turks, but a fair number may of cattle may still be expected to be found. Prices, however, are very high.

JOLAN DISTRICT.

The JOLAN is a strip of land lying W. of HAURAN, between it and the JORDAN VALLEY and the Lakes of TIBERIAS and MEROM. Its northern extremity reaches to the foot of Mount HERMON and the Southern boundary is the YABUK Valley. This, being a district of extinct volcanoes, is very rich in pastures and is noted for its cattle. Here, not only may one expect to buy large numbers of fat, butchering cattle, but it may prove a most useful grazing ground for army animals to recuperate.

POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS	GENERAL
<u>AJLUN.</u>				
600 Mos.	Neutral	Doubtful	Sowing re- stricted	Catholic Missions
<u>ANJARA.</u>				
150 Mos.	Neutral	Negligible	Sowing re- stricted	Catholic Missions
<u>ALLIAN</u>				
600 Cir- cassians	Hostile	Probably fair am- ount grain. No barley or tbn.	Good proa- pects.	Araba friendly.
<u>DERAA..</u>				
3500 Mos.	Neutral	Known to possess granaries	Considerable cultivation. Should be good	
<u>FUNEIS, EL</u>				
300 Chris.	Friendly	Reported all com- mandeered.		
<u>FIK</u>				
200 Mos.	Neutral	Negligible.	Fertile dis- trict nor- mally.	
<u>HOSH, EL</u>				
650 Chris.	Friendly	Small quantity of grain.	Should be good	Catholic Missions
<u>IRBID</u>				
1000 Mos.	Neutral	Probably small amount grain.	Should be good	
<u>JERASH</u>				
600 Cir- cassians	Hostile	Small amount of grain.	Normally fertile.	
<u>KAFRINJI</u>				
300 Mos.	Neutral	negligible	Sowing re- stricted.	
<u>KEFR HARIB</u>				
200 Mos.	Neutral	Nil	No cultiv- ation.	

Part II)

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POPULATION	PROBABLE ATTITUDE	SUPPLIES	STATE OF CROPS.	GENERAL
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2000 Chris.	Friendly	HADEBA Estimated 15-2-18 120 tons of wheat		Animals said to be plentiful, i.e. donkeys & camels.
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300 Mos	Neutral	MEZERIB Nil	Normally fertile	
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750 Cir-cassians	Hostile	NAAUR Probably small amount grain.	Fertile district	
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750 Cir-cassians	Hostile	RUMEIMIN Probably small amount grain	Good prospect	
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350 Mos.	Neutral	PEMTE Known to possess granaries	Fertile district	
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15,000 33% Chris.	Neutral	SALT Considerable stock grain. No barley.	Good prospect	Population reported to be under evacuation.
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250 Mos.	Neutral	Shoikh OBEID. Negligible	Little cultivation	
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350 Mos.	Neutral	TAIYIBE, ET Nil	Normally for-tile country.	Many Christians.
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150 Mos.	Neutral	UM KEIS Nil	No cultivation.	
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750 Cir-cassians	Hostile	WADI SIR Probably small amount grain.		
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NOTE ON POLITICAL SITUATION EAST OF JORDAN.

The Arabs on the East of Jordan are not, like those on the West, organised by villages and administrative departments, but are tribal, every tribe having a greater or smaller number of villages in the cultivated lands, and also camps in those lands, and in the desert. The villagers and the tent-dwellers of one tribe act in common, and frequently interchange their modes of life. Very few of the Arabs, except in Salt, and some of the older villages, are permanently sedentary; and much of the cultivation belongs to, and is controlled by, nomads.

The result is that nomad Bedouins are to be met with everywhere in considerable numbers, and that they are the masters of the situation: and further, that all the population, nomad and sedentary alike, has the instincts of Bedouins. They detest any control, but that of tribal chiefs: they have had very little experience of a general organised government, the Turks having attempted to hold the East Jordan districts under a regular administration only since 1895; they regard inter-tribal fouds, and armed raids, as incumbent upon every man of spirit, and recognise no law in the matter but that of the tribe: they are well armed, hostile to all strangers, till these justify themselves, intensely jealous of their women and property, very quick to take offence, and tenacious in revenge.

They have had much less intercourse with the outer world than the Arabs of Palestine proper, and are ill-accustomed to regard Christians except as an inferior order of beings. It cannot be realised too clearly in advance that they do not desire any government but their own, and do not appreciate the blessings of any settled government whatever. The chief difficulty likely to arise with them, however well we conduct ourselves, will spring from their instant conviction that we have come to stay and impose settled government on them from without.

Sherif Feisal, acting for the King of the Hejaz, has not definitely enrolled any tribes north of the SALT-AMMAN line: but he has enrolled most of those to the South of it. Too much reliance must not, however, be placed on tribes, which have been enrolled, expecting or welcoming British co-operation. They are remote from any point at which British and Sherifians have been seen together, and are probably imperfectly informed of the nature, reality, and objects of the alliance between us.

The tribes likely to be encountered on our proposed line of advance are those :-

At the outset, immediately across Jordan, only wandering tents of ABEIDIYAH, SAWAHRI, and ABID MIRIAM, small, non-fighting tribes of the Ghor, which can be disregarded.

On the first of the plateau, or before, some elements of the large body of small tribes, known generally as the BELQAWIYAH. The most important are the ADWAN, whose permanent Chief, SULTAN ALI DIAB, has some authority over all the Belqawiyah. He and the ADWAN are definitely committed to Sherif Feisal's cause, and have already rendered help to Major Lawrence in a reconnaissance, and

they will be friendly if tactfully treated. Their chief lives at HESBAN, about 20 miles South of SALT, and any question should, if possible, be referred at once to him. The tribe has several sub-tribes, to one of which a man may say he belongs without mentioning the main tribe. If he should speak of the SALIH, the NIMR, the ASSAF, the KAID, the THAWABIYAH, or the JUFIRAN EL ABID, he is of the ADWAN, and all right. It is not quite certain whether two other tribes, the AJARMA, and the GHANMAT, both to be expected in the Ghor, on the right of the line of our march up to the Plateau, are either enrolled by Feisal, or controlled by Sultan Ali Diab. But, in any case, they would not be formidable, the latter's tribes controlling the local situation.

Patrols from a much stronger tribe than any of these, the BENI SAKHR (SUKHUR) may be encountered anywhere on the road. This tribe has long been in the habit of levying tolls on the Jericho-Amman road, and will be on the look-out. Ordinarily it is at enmity with the Adwan, but it has been sworn in for service with Sherif Feisal, and has agreed for the time to keep a truce with his other Arabs. It had two or three thousand men ready to help him a month ago, should he come north, and it has already taken part in attacks on the Railway, and accepted Feisal's subsidy. It should, therefore, be friendly, and will probably not appear in strength unless definitely sent by its chiefs to co-operate with us. Men of the ZEBEN section of it (Chiefs MIFNAH KAMAAN and HETMEL) are most likely to be met; but the HEKEISH Section may also come out (Chiefs NUMAN EITAN of the BESHIR clan; FAHAD DEIFALLAH of the ZEIDAN; HADITHA EL KHUREISHA of the KHURSHAN, etc). This tribe is well armed, and has a fighting reputation. It may be met with all along the road up to AMMAN. The FAIZ Section is the least likely to be friendly.

Further on, South of SALT, come the ABBAD, in and around WADI SIR. These are reported to go with the ADWAN. They are a strong (some 1,000 fighting men) but sedentary tribe. Beyond this point up to Amman, the Beni Sakhr are the only other Arabs likely to appear on the right of our advance.

The above-mentioned tribes include all that have to be considered as far south as MADEBA, whose population is Christian.

On the left of our advance lies an ABBAD clan, the NUCIMAT, west of SALT; and after the latter town, the BENI HASAN, a very strong tribe (some 3,000 fighting men) whose confederation is said now to extend northwards to the HAURAN. Its chiefs have been in communication with the Sherif, but the tribe has not been enrolled yet, or subsidised. The Turks regard it, however, as disloyal to them. It is on the fence, and requires careful handling should it be encountered. It has not been prepared for the appearance of British troops, and will not readily co-operate with them. But, if properly approached, it should remain neutral at the worst. Its sub-tribes are KHALILA, RASHIDAT, AMUSH, MASHAKA, SHUBA, ZIYUD, ALEIM, and GHAZIYALAH.

SALT town itself has about one third Christians in its population of, approximately, 15,000. These Christians are of a very Arab type, hardly distinguishable at sight from Bedouins. The Moslem majority is reported not fanatical, and, being a trading community, is likely to welcome us. But the Bedouin features of its character should not be lost sight of, and great care should be taken about not striking men (a deadly insult, always, if poss-

ible, avenged), and not interfering with women.

AMMAN, like some small villages near by, contains Circassians (Tcherkess) colonists of higher social standard than the Arabs, industrious and brave, but very pro-Turk and fanatical. Their younger men have been so largely drafted away into irregular cavalry by the Turks, that, probably, the total number at Amman now, inclusive of women and children, is well under 1,000. Some Amman Circassians are serving in a cavalry regiment now in the area of the 8th Army Corps, which may be brought up for the defence. The Chief of Amman, MIRZA BEY, was reported killed about a year ago, and it is not known who has succeeded him. These colonists, and other Circassians and Turkmans will certainly be hostile to us.

It is possible that some other small BELQAWIYAH tribes, living round HESBAN, may appear on the line of our advance, and therefore their names should be kept in mind. They are the SHAWABKAH (Chief ABDULLAH EDEIS EL-METAIBAH), who have several sub-tribes, the HAWAZIN, NIJADAH and HUMEIMAT, all under ALI ABU SITTA EL-WANDI; the METAIBAH, MUNAIHAH, DAWAT and HARAID, under chiefs of whom EID EL-MAHDI and ALI EL SHAK-ATRA are the most important.

The YAZAIDA, allies of the Ghanamat, under IBRAHIM EL-KHAWATRA, are near Mount Hebo. They have sub-tribes, the SHARUQIYIN and the QUREINIYIN.

The SHAWAKRAH and MARASHDAH are only likely to be met by a force approaching MADEBA.

On the latter part of the advance, near AMMAN, some independent Arabs, belonging to small tribes, mostly living beyond the railway to east and north, may be encountered. The most to be expected are the AGHSALAT, and the ARNITIN. They will probably be friendly.

P E R S O N A L I T I E S .

AJLUN. SHARARI Family - The chief family. HAMAD EL SHARARI. Member of District Council. Rich and respected.

AMMAN A Circassian colony, thoroughly Turkish in sentiment. The chief of the two principal families are :-
MIRZA Bey - Strongly pro-Turk.
MOHAMED ALI Bey, who joined in attack on Canal in 1915 and was made a Major in the Turkish Army.

DERAA MAHAMID family - 600/700 persons.
FADHIL EL MAHAMID - 50. Chief Sheikh, Head of Municipality. Rich merchant. Trusted by people.
SAID EL ABBAS EL MAHAMID - 58, rich merchant, influential.
600

MESALMI family - 400 persons.
ALI YUSEF EL MESALMI - 55/60. Member of District Council.
ABDEL RAHMAN EL AHMED EL MESALMI - Member of Municipality

KRAD family - Kurd family.
EL JABIR EL KRAD - 50/55 Chief. Rich.

JAWAIRI family.
MUFLEH EL JAWAIRI - 35. Chief. Director of Tolographe.

KERAK - MOSLEMS.

MUJALI family.
ASAAD Bey. - Formerly Kaimakam of ALEPPO. Appointed acting Mutesarrif of Kerak, Dec. 1916
SHEIKH KADER MUJALI - 45/50 Usually referred to as Sheikh el Meshaikh. His father was hanged by Turks. Beduin in character. Reported thoroughly Anglophil and anti-Turk.
RUFEIFAN EFF. MUJALI - 35/40. Head of Municipality. Rich and somewhat Turkised. Not intelligent. Probably pro-Sherif.
TAUFIK BEY MUJALI - 30/35. Influential. Formerly M.P. speaks Turkish as well as Arabic. Reported pro-Sherif. Has been to Egypt.

CHRISTIANS.

There are several important Christian families about KERAK, all Greek Orthodox. They are very Arab in character, brave and independent. The men are semi-nomadic, leaving their families in KERAK, and following their flocks at certain seasons of the year. The most important are the SUNAA family (Chief - Boutros Eff. Es. Sunaa), the KOUSSOUS family (Chief - IBRAHIM EL KOUSSOUS) and the ABU SHREIHA family, (Chief - SALAMT IBN SALIM ABU SHREIHA).

MADEBA.

Entirely Christian (Greek Orthodox). The most important families are the SUNAA family mentioned above, the SHWAHAT family (Chief - YAKUB ES SHWAHAT, Head of Muni-

cipality), the ABDULLAH family, the TAWAL family (Chief - IBRAHIM ET TAWAL), and the AZAIZI family (Chief - HANNA IBN FARAH EL AZAIZI).

Many of the members of these families are reported exiled.

SALT.

NABULSI family. This family of over 60 personages is the most influential Moslem family in SALT. Friendly to Christians. HAJJ MOHAMED NABULSI - 75. Head of family. reported a good character and influential.

HAJJ FOX NABULSI - about 35 years. Son of the above, and the next leading man in family. Large landowner at HEZBAN. Rich and very influential. Member of District Council.

HAJJ FAREZ NABULSI - about 40 years. Brother of the above.

ABDEL RAZZAK family. A large and important family of about 8 brothers. A branch of the TOKHAN family of NABLUS.

ALA ED DIN ABDEL RAZZAK. 40. Chief of family. Member of the District council. Merchant dealing with Beduins.

SAIF ED DIN ABDEL RAZZAK - 45. Brother of above.

SOLIMAN ABDEL RAZZAK - 30. Rich sensible and influential.

IKTISHAT family.

AHMED ABDEL MUHDI IKTISHAT. 40 pro-Turk. Self seeking and able. Personal friend of SHEKIB AESLAN. Offered to raise 1,000 horse-men for the Turks from SALT, but failed. Greatly distrusted by SALT people. Has received many decorations from Young Turks. Reported in disfavour, now, and probably deported.

MUTLAK IBN MUFLEH IKTISHAT - 40. Assisted above.

AWAMLEH family.

MOHAMED IBN HUSEIN EL YUSEF AWAMLEH - 55. Anti-Turk. Member of district Council.

ADIB IBN KAID AWAMLEH - Cousin of above. Pro-Turk.

FAWAIR family - Large clan of perhaps 3,000. Members rich and influential. Political views unknown, probably anti-Turk.

NUWAR family

EL ABED ABU NUWAR - 35. Rich merchant and landowner. Has good name.

ABDEL KERIM ABU NUWAR - 25. Brother of above. Director of Agricultural Bank.

HAMUD family - Land and stock owners with considerable local influence.

NIMR IBN HAJJ HAMUD - Head of family. Head of Municipality.

therefore no grain supplica can be expected from them.
This tribe, though they have enough grain

GREEK ORTHODOX.

ABU JABR family - most important Christian family in SALT.
Own lands at YADUDEF on Hejaz Railway as well as at SALT.
Friendly with Arab tribes and very hospitable.
SELIH ABU JABR - 55. Head of family.
SAID IBN FARHAN ABU JABR - 35. Best educated and most go-
ahead of family.

ROMAN CATHOLICS.

BISHARA family - Related to ABU JABR family. Sturdy cul-
tivators. Reported Francophile.
SALTI BISHARA - 50 Head of family Influential.
HARNA BISHARA - Educated in Switzerland. Has a farm near
JIZAH.

SUKKAR family.

YUSUF ES SUKKAR - 60. Reported to be richest man in SALT.
Very hospitable and influential but cautious. Very Arab
in sentiment. Reported Francophile. His son, IBRAHIM, was
educated, against his father's wishes, at American College,
Boyrouth, by Sir John Gray Hill.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART II - EAST OF JORDAN.

PERSONALITIES in the HAU RAN.

- AERE. - Sheikh SELIM PASHA EL ATRASH. Population 1200. Druse & Christian.
- AIN JENNI - Chief family MANEMANYEH. Population 1500/2000.
- AJLUN. - Sheikhs SALEM EL KHELEIF (Moslem). THELJI KHALIL (Christian).
- ANJARA. - Chief Christian MAHSUD SELIM (Francophile) Population 1000 (Christian and Moslem)
- BASIR - Sheikh MUSTAPHA EL LONE.
- BOSRA ESKI SHAM - Capital of KAZA. Principal family, EL MUKDAD. Sheikh, MANSUR EL KHALIL, whose brother SAAD ED DIN, is a deputy at CONSTANTINOPLE. They are pro-Sherif.
- BUSR EL HARIR. - Population 1200. Chief family - HARAIRI (the chief called ALI EL AHMED lives at SHEIKH MISKIN).
- DUWEIRIB, El - Population 6/700 (Druse and Christian) - Sheikh, FAKHR-ED-DIN.
- EZRA - Capital of KAZA. Population 800 (Christian, with some Moslems) Sheikhs: NAZZAL EL OBEID (Christian), JILAN JABARAT (Moslem).
- GHARAYE, El - Population Druse, with some rich Christians. Sheikh SULTAN BEY EL ATRASH, very independent. He refused presents sent him by JEMAL Pasha.
- GHAZALE. - Population 1500 - 2000 (Moslem - the ZAABIYEH) Sheikh IBRAHIM SELIM.
- HIT, El - Christian population.
- HOSN, El - Population 5000 (part Christian, part Moslem) Sheikhs :- NICOLAS EL GHANMA and SELIM ES SALTI (Christian) OKLA EL MOHAMED and MAHMUD EL FENEISH (Moslem).
- IRBID - Capital of KAZA. Rich country. Notables :- BEIT FARKUA (Christian family) MUSTAPHA EL HEJAZI and SALEH MUSTAPHA (Moslem).
- JILLIN - (towards JAULAN district) Land belongs to Jews, but they are not domiciled there.
- JEBAB - Population Christian. Sheikh NEJIB EL HATEM. Speaks French and Turkish.
- JERASH - Capital of Nahle. Population 1000 (Circassian) Sheikh SHEVKET Bey.

KAFR, El - Population Druse with some Christians.

KAFREINJI - Population Moslom (Sheikh (of family of FEREIHAT) very influential in JEBEL AJLUN.

KHALKHAL, El - Population 800 - 1000 Druse. Sheikh SELIM EL MEGHWESEH.

KHARABA - Population 1500 (Christians) Sheikhs - SAKR EL KHURI and OUQ EL HEKTAMI.

KISWE - Population 1500 (Moslom).

LEJA, El - The country is of lava formation and difficult of access. The Arab population is independent. The Chief tribe is the SALUT of which the Sheikh FAUZ has died in exile, his brother, FAIZ EL GHESEIN, succeeding him. FAIZ has visited the Sherif, and acted as his secretary, and was sent by him to HAURAN and LEJA on special missions. So far as is known FAIZ is ardently pro-Sherif. He is not the real Chief of the SALUT, however. The Chief is SAEDDIN, who has been in revolt more than once. FAIZ was educated at Constantinople and speaks French. He held an official appointment before the war, his brother receives \$15 a month from the Turkish Government. The second Chief of the LEJA is SAID-ED-DIN ABU SULEIMAN, who receives \$1000 a month from the Government.

MISKIN, SHEIKH. - Capital of Nahie. Population 2000 (HARAIRIEH).

MURASRAS - Population Druse. In the Wadi LIWA the Druses are poor. In all Druse villages there are some Christians.

MUSTEFIRE, El - Population Moslom. Inhabited chiefly by the ZAABIYEH whose principal Sheikhs are at REMTE and TAIYIBEH.

NAKHITE - Population Moslom.

NAWA - Rich grain district. Population 4/5000 Moslom. Sheikh - MUTIAK EL MADIB. He revolted against Turkish Government and killed 60 soldiers who tried to take his grain by force. To escape the Turks he fled to JEBEL DRUSE. His family has been exiled to BRUSSA.

RAKHAM - Population 1 to 2000 (Christian). Sheikh - FAZA KANDIL.

RENTÉ, Er - Population 7,000 (Moslem with some Christians. Sheikhs - FAWAZ, MAH UD EL AHMED, ALI.

SAAD, Sheikh - Population :- People who came to the HAURAN with IBRAHIM Pasha.

SALKHAD - Capital of Nahie. Population 400 (Druse and Christian) Sheikh - NESIB EL ATRACH.

SAMME - Population Catholic Christian. Sheikh - ISMAIL MEIDEH.

SHUHBA - Capital of Nahie. Population DRUSE. Sheikh - EL AWAMREH

SUWEIDA, El - Capital of KAZA. Barracks for troops. Population 7/8000 (Druse with some Christians, very poor). Sheikh TEWFIK BEY EL ATRACH.

SUF - Population 2000 (Moslem and Christian). Sheikh ABDEL AZIZ
KAID (very intelligent).

TAIYIBEH, El. - Population 1000 (Moslem with some Christians).

TIBNEH - Population Moslem. Sheikh KLEIB IBN YUSEF ES SHERARDEH.

UMM WELED - Population 700 (Rifai Moslem) Shoikh AHMED ER RIFAI.

Army GS

PERSONALITIES*****

ABWEIN - MUSA AHMAD ABDULLAH, Headman of village, popular and influential in district. Anti-Turk.

AIN ADUS - ABU BAKR EL MUSSA of the DAR RAYAN family. Pro-English.

AMATIN - HASSAN EL IRAKI (10 years ago was employed by Turkish Government for 6 months). Influential. Anti-Turk.

ANEETA. AHMED HAMDALLAH - 55 years of age, a native of ANEETA, and a member of the Administrative Council for the KAZA of TUL KERAM. He was a contractor for wheat for the Turkish Government. He is said to be tyrannical and a "bad lot."

ARURA - DAHUD HAMDAN and UMAMAD ABDUL RAZEIK influential and Anti-Turk.

AZZUN - MOHAMED OSMAN, 30 years of age, one of the local men of importance: is reported as a "bad lot." He spent three years in prison. Anti-Turk.

BEIT RIMA - The chief family here is that of the DAR KANAN.
(1) YUSEFH ABDUL RZEK (head of family).
(2) HASSAN AHMAD. Both influential.
(1)'s brother and some relatives were hanged by the Turks.

BERUKIN. - ALI EL ABDUL-HAMID and HAMI EL ABDUL JELIL. Influential notables. Anti-Turk.

BIDIEH - The two brothers OMAR and MOHAMMED SAID, and YUSEFH Eff. belong to the DAR ABU HIJLEH family. They used to be pro-Turk, but, owing to robberies and ill treatment, they now await British rule.

BURIN - YUSEF IMRAN, rich farmer and cattle owner. Influential anti-Turk.

EL DEIR - ABDEL JABAR OMAR, 50 years, member of the Administrative Council of the KAZA of TUL KERAM, is reported to be a good and respectable man. He is at enmity with the notorious HANTASH family.

DEIR ESTIA - MUSTAPHA EL MUSSA and his cousin HAMDALLAH of the DAR ABU HIJLEH family. Before the war the former was pro-Turkish.

DINNABEH. - IBRAHIM SAMARA, 45 years of age, a friend and partisan of ABDEL RAHMAN EL HAJ IBRAHIM, is reported to have made money during the war.

ELLAR - ALI EL HAG MOHAMMED, 45 years of age, a Municipal Councillor, is reported as a man of good character.

EL FUNDUK. - ASSAD, 44 years of age, is the Mukhtar of the village. Reported poor.

HABASHI. - SALEH one of the Mukhtars, is reported as a moderate and simple man.
 SHAMEEL is also a Mukhtar, and is said to be very mischievous and a "facteur de troubles."

HABLEH - SLEIMAN EL ABD EL KADUR, 40, and MUSTAPHA EL ABDEL HADI.
 ===== Very influential and anti-Turk.

HARIS. - SALEH JABALI. Influential anti-Turk.
 =====

IRTAH - EL SUKHARI, 40 years of age, the Mukhtar of the village,
 ===== is reported as a bad character.
 EL ABD SEALABY, 50 years of age, is a merchant. He is well reported on.

JAYOUSH - HASSAN HAMDAN, 50 years of age is favourably reported on.
 =====

JEMMAIN - MOHAMED EL HAJ ASSAD and his brother ABDULLAH EL SAID -
 ===== influential and anti-Turk.

JINSAFUT - Sherif EL MAHMUD AHMAD - influential, pro-English.
 =====

KAFAT - ABD-ALLAH ABU AYASH, very influential and rather anti-Turk.
 =====

KALANSAWEH - MOHAMMED EL NATOUR, 50 years, is reported to be a quiet
 ===== and upright man.

KALKILIEH. - YUNIS IBN AMAR EL AHSAN - pro-Turk.
 ===== DOAR ESH SHANTI family - pro-Turk.
 SAMARAH IBN YUSSEF ABU IDRAH } pro-English.
 HAJ MAHMUD IBN HAMD EL KASIM }
 SALIH HILLAL, 40 years of age, is reported as a "bad character." Pro-English.

KAROUN. - OMAR EL HAJ AHMED, 45 years of age, a native of KAROUN is
 ===== favourably reported on.

KARYET HAJJEH. - ABDEL HAMID MUSTAPHA, 35 years of age, and MUSTAPHA
 ===== EL BATTAN, 45 years of age, are Mukhtars of the village. They are favourably reported, and are stated to be poor.

KEFR ABUSH - AMER, 35 years of age, Mukhtar of the village, is
 ===== unfavourably reported on.
 MAHMOUD KHALAF is favourably reported on.

EL KEFR, or - There are two factions under (1) ABDUL SLEMAN and
KEFR EL DIK (2) MUHAMMAD EL SAID. (1) are anti-Turk. (2) former
 ===== pro-Turks are now undecided.

KEFR AIN. - ISHMAIN MUSSA, 53, and AHMAD ABU HAMAD are leaders of
 ===== two rival parties, but both pro-British.

KEFR JEMMAL - MOHAMMED SULEIMAN, 45 years of age, Mukhtar of the vill-
 ===== age, is reported as a poor man of good character

KEFR KADDUM. - ALI MOHAMMED, 45 years of age, is very favourably re-
 ===== ported on.

KEFR KULLIN - ABDEL YOUSSEF, Mukhtar. Influential anti-Turk.
=====

KEFR SABA - HAMDAN EL WALWAL, 45 years of age, said to have been
===== the richest man in the village, has apparently lost
considerably during the war.
HUSSEIN ILAM, 50 years of age, was chief tax-collector
for the district. He is favourably reported on.

KEFR KASIM - MUHAMMED KHALID, IDRIS IBN ODI, SHEIKH ABDULLAH ABD
===== UL HAFID, all influential and pro-English.

KUR - ABDEL RAHIM EL JAOUSY, 65 years, is the richest man in the
===== KAZA of TUL KERAM. He has been accused of murder, but no
case was proved against him. He is reported to be of good
character.

KURAWA IBN ZEID - MUSTAPHA DAHUD and HAMDAN MALUKH, both influen-
===== tial and anti-Turk.

KUZAH - Old Mukhtar ODI EL SARUH, influential, pro-British.
=====

EL MATTINE - EL ARAKI, 40 years of age, the Mukhtar of the vill-
===== age is favourably reported on.

MERDA - OSMAN HAMAM of KHUTASH family and MITRAL HAJ NIJIM, both
===== influential and anti-Turk.

MES-HA - DRIS EL AWAD, 30, and his uncle ABD ALLAH EL ABDEL HAFID.
===== Influential. Friendly to British.

MEZRAH - HUSSEIN ABU METHAT and Sheikh BAKIR EN NUBANI influential
===== anti-Turks.

MISHI. - HASSAN SHEBAITA, 50 years of age, and ALI RAHMAN, 55 years
===== of age, are both favourably reported on.

SELFIT -IBN OSMAN, 35 years of age, a local notable, is
===== favourably reported on.
Chief notables :- ABDUL RANI AFNI and Sheikh ABDUL RANI,
(brothers), and ABDUL KADIR EL ZER. Anti-Turk.

SENIRIKH
SENIRIKH - The three brothers HAJ AHMAD ISMAIN, YUSEF ISMAIN, and
===== IBRAHIM ISMAIN, influential locally. Anti-Turk. They
belong to the DAR ABU HUSLEH family.

SHUWENKI - MAHMUD ABU DAHER, 45 years of age, is unfavourably re-
===== ported on.

SURTAH - OMAR EL HAJ SAID, 40 years of age, is favourably report-
===== ed on.

TAIYIBEH - ABDEL RAHIM ISMAIL, 50 years of age, is the eldest brother
===== of ABDEL RAHMAN EL HAJ IBRAHIM, and of similar bad reput-
ation.
Sheikh HASSAN MANSOUR, 50 years of age, is reported on as
a simple and good man.

TIREH - IBRAHIM SAMARA, 60 years of age, is reported as a mischievous, bad character.

NEJEEB ABDEL MANNAN, 38 years of age, member of the Administrative Council of TUL KERAM, is said to have undergone a period of two years imprisonment for theft.

TUL KERAM - MOHAMMED EL JABALI, 38 years of age, member of the Administrative Council, and one of the principal men of the district, is reported as a man of bad conduct, but of some influence.

MOHAMMED HANNOUN, 60 years of age, member of the Administrative Council, and is well reported on, and is said to be of good character.

URIF - IBRAHIM IBN OMAR EL IMR (ex-Government employee) Strongly pro-Turk.

YASUF - ABDUL HAMID - very rich influential anti-Turk.

ZAWIEH - MUSTAPHA SHAKUR, HASSAN ABU FAKHRI and MUHAMAD EL AHSSEN influential and anti-Turk.

ZEITA - Sheikh ABDUL BAKI EL ABD EL HAK, pro-English.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**ENEMY TERRITORY.***18th March, 1918.***EVACUATIONS.**

An agent reports that he heard at the end of February five days' notice had been given to the inhabitants to evacuate Nablus.

As showing how the evacuation of a district is carried out by the Turks, the following orders, handed over by Khalil Bey, the late Mudir of Jericho, are of interest:—

"(1.) Each Division is to select a Military Committee which is to co-operate with the elders and heads of villages."

"(2.) Each person will be issued with 10 days' rations. The population will only take away cattle which have young, or are about to bear young. The remainder of their possessions and cattle will be transported later by Military Authorities, and receipts, taken from the elders of the villages, will be kept."

"(3.) The transport of household effects being at present impossible, these must be collected together and a depot opened in each village. These effects will be forwarded later. A few villagers must be left behind to guard them."

"(4.) The penalty for misconduct (e.g. pillage) is death."

"(5.) The population must move to Jenin by mule tracks between the Jordan and the Nablus road. The Mudir of Jericho is responsible for their safety, and must telegraph to Jenin the number of persons coming there."

"(6.) It is strictly forbidden for anyone to pass through to the enemy lines without a special pass from Army Corps Headquarters."

"(7.) The move will commence on the morning of 5/1/18 and be complete by the evening of 7/1/18."

An Arab Christian, who left Nablus on 3rd March, states that all German archives that were in the town, have been removed to Damascus. All Armenians have been deported.

A refugee from Sel Wad (16 miles N. of Jerusalem) states that the population of Sel Wad had been evacuated to the North by the Turks.

HEALTH.

An agent reports that all the hospitals in Aleppo were recently full of sick and wounded, and most of the wounded were now being sent to Adana. There was no contagious disease there, but the sick were suffering from hunger and lack of clothing.

A prisoner of war, captured on 5/3/18, states that the Armenians in the Homs-Hamah area are in a deplorable condition. Typhoid and Typhus are both prevalent among them. There is no Cholera or plague in that area, however, and it is the opinion of this informant that the health of the country, generally, is good.

A Prisoner of War, once a doctor in the Turkish Army, supplies the following medical details regarding the health of the troops. During the winter of 1917, about 100 typhus cases were daily admitted to the Hospital of Infectious Diseases in Damascus. About 50% died the day they were admitted, and 25% during the course of the disease. All those who were very much run down were, on discharge, sent on leave. About 10 cases per diem of other diseases (including scurvy) were admitted to the same hospital. Of these, 25% died, one half were given long leave on recovery and the remaining 25% returned to their Regiments. Most of the cases suffering from these diseases came from the Hejaz Expeditionary Force. In the summer of 1917, cholera broke out amongst the troops around Damascus, about 20 cases being reported in this hospital every day. As a matter of fact 75% of these supposed cholera cases turned out to be chronic dysentery, and the remaining 25% cholera. The mortality was small. Malaria has always been rampant in the Damascus area, and the mortality was 5% of the cases.

With regard to the health of the Civil population in the vilayets of Damascus, Beyrout and Aleppo, he states that lack of nourishment has reduced physical resistance to disease to a minimum. During the winter of 1917, 60% of the population had typhus of whom 30%, mostly men, died. The population of the following towns suffered most from typhus (the names are given in the order of the extent to which the towns suffered): Aleppo, Beirut, Homs, Hama and Damascus. Enteric broke out in 1917 and the deaths were about 5% of the cases. There were slight cholera outbreaks in Damascus, in the summer of 1917.

An Arab prisoner of war captured on 9/3/18 states that the general health in Northern Syria has considerably improved, and he is of the opinion that reports recently given of the ravages of various diseases are exaggerated.

A German prisoner of war who has recently been in Constantinople, gives it as his belief that the health of the Turkish Army is good on all fronts owing to German sanitary discipline.

A prisoner of war, captured 1/3/18, states that there are no serious epidemics in the Army or among the civil population. Venereal disease is rife.

RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKS AND GERMANS.

Two German prisoners of war, captured on 3/3/18, stated that such German troops as there were in this country were not on good terms with the Turks, and that disputes were of constant occurrence.

A deserter, recently arrived at Mejdal, states that the Turks are incensed at the Germans garrisoning Damascus with German troops. He bears witness to the bad feeling existing between Germans and Turks.

A prisoner of war, captured 5/3/18, states that in Syria no one hesitates to blame Germany for the present situation of the Turkish Empire.

A German prisoner of war, recently captured, states that the feeling between Germans and Turks was good in Constantinople.

A prisoner of war, captured 1/3/18, states there is no chance of a revolution in Turkey as German influence is all-pervading.

A prisoner of war, a private and native of Constantinople, states that the Germans are liked in his district and looked upon as the saviours of Turkey.

THE COMMITTEE OF UNION AND PROGRESS.

A prisoner of war, captured 5/3/18, states that the opposition party to the Committee of Union and Progress, having been broken up by the Military Party can hardly be said to exist. The mere mention of the names of the leaders of the Opposition Party is enough evidence to cause a man to be tried by a Military Court. Up to the present, no dissensions are noticeable in the Committee of Union and Progress. Its members are more united than ever: they encounter no serious hindrance, and can carry out with impunity any idea they conceive, whether beneficial or detrimental to the people.

A German prisoner of war, recently captured, declared that the presence of the guns of the "Goeben" had been a factor in maintaining the Committee of Union and Progress Government, and also uniting the conflicting elements as represented by Enver, Talaat and Jemal respectively. The Committee of Union and Progress can rely on the proletariat, but not so much on what corresponds to the middle class of other nations which is represented by a considerable number of deputies in the Turkish Parliament. An organised Opposition Party cannot be said to exist. Jemal is the strongest member of the Government. He represents German influence. Pan-Islamism was no longer a cry, and the Pan-Turanian movement was too fantastic to succeed. He regarded the present Turkish Government as stable, chiefly for the reason of "faute de mieux."

Another German prisoner of war, recently captured, states that although the fall of Jerusalem created depression in Constantinople it had not decreased faith in the Committee of Union and Progress.

RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKS AND ARABS.

A prisoner of war, captured 1/3/18, states that all the men in his battalion and regiment are now Turks. Formerly there were about 300 Arabs in the Regiment, but most of these had deserted and those who were left, about 100 in number, were employed in Transport. Their loyalty was not trusted in the firing line.

A prisoner of war, captured 9/12/17, states that there are two main classes of Arabs, the Syrians who are enlightened, and the Bedouins who are barbaric. The Syrian Arabs can be subdivided into Christians and Moslems. Before the war, the ambitions of these two classes of Arabs were at variance, but the harsh treatment they have received at the hands of the Turks during the last three years has united them in a common determination to be quit of the Turk. The Syrian Arabs look for an independent country consisting of the vilayets of Beyrout, Damascus and Aleppo, with Damascus as the capital. The Bedouin Arabs wish to remain as they are in tribes, provided their independence can be guaranteed by the Western Powers.

A prisoner of war, captured 5/3/18, states that all over Syria, Moslems and Christians are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the British. The majority of the officials in Damascus are Arabs. Articles written in Arabic in the local press are well veiled so that only Arabs can clearly understand them, but are in essence hostile to the Turk. This sentiment is evinced even among the lower class uneducated civilian portion of the population.

A prisoner of war, recently captured, relates a personal experience which illustrates the bad feeling existing between Turks and Arabs. On one occasion he saw some Turkish soldiers carrying doors away from some houses in Jericho. He jokingly asked them if they had captured these from the British, and received the answer "No—but from the people who are more hostile to us than the British—the Arabs."

From the evidence of two prisoners of war, recently captured, both of them natives of Northern Syria, it is clear that in that district not much is known of the Arab movement in the Hejaz. One of them, a sergeant, states that the people of the Saida Kaimakamlik (20 miles south of Beirut, on the coast) never speak of the Hejaz movement at all, and the other, a corporal, states that very little is known in the Antioch district about this movement.

The same sergeant declares that the Arabs, Christians and Moslems are so anti-Turk in the Saida district, that they refused to have a Turkish Kaimakam or Turkish gendarmes.

A prisoner of war, an Arab cadet, recently captured, states that in the Beirut vilayet, the Arabs holding important positions are pro-Turk owing to the fact that they are receiving exceptionally large salaries. Jemal's policy was to get rid of all Arab notables he could not rely upon.

A prisoner of war states that in the Jenin district (16 miles north of Nablus) the Turks are very unpopular as the brother of a Pasha of Jenin was put to death for his supposed pro-British leanings. Around Jenin very little is known of the Hejaz movement. About three months ago British aircraft dropped a large number of leaflets on the subject, but these were only read secretly, as anyone found with these in his possession would have been put to death as a traitor.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE TURKISH ARMY (FOOD, CLOTHING, Etc.).

A deserter captured at the end of February states that there have been no boots available for issue by the Army for the last eleven months. Yellow hide slippers tied with thongs are issued instead and worn without socks. At Stamboul there is a great shortage of leather, only the rough kinds are available. There are many cobblers, but none who know how to make army boots. The daily army ration of bread made of maize and barley has been reduced to 1 2/5 lbs.

A Turkish soldier, who deserted on March 4th, and who has served as an Army Cook, gives the following details with regard to the meals of the troops:—

Breakfast at 1700—flour soup.

Dinner at 1500—barley soup.

Troops gather herbs, which they mix with this soup. They get one loaf of bread (doura), weighing 1 lb. per day for each two men, and no meat, tea, coffee, or sugar. Issue of dry fruit was stopped in February.

The same informant states that there had been no renewals of clothing or boots for many months, except seven suits per battalion. Only slippers and hide shoes are served out.

An Arab deserter from the Hejaz Expeditionary Force states that the Army in Arabia is very short of food, wood, clothing, and boots. The soldiers make Bedouin shoes for themselves out of camel skin.

Another Arab, who deserted from the Turkish Army near Nablus, a month ago, speaks of the great scarcity of leather, rubber, cloth, and petroleum stores.

THE TURKS AND THE DRUSES.

A Prisoner of War, captured 9/12/17, states that Jemal Pasha changed his policy of oppression towards the Hauran Druses in July of 1917, and initiated an extensive system of bribery. He collected all the Sheikhs he could not rely upon, and bribed them to remain in Damascus, leaving the loyal Sheikhs in the villages, but still continuing to give them monthly payments. Moreover, he collected all those who were in possession of arms, bribing them £4 each in gold to remain in the town. Jemal has not changed his policy towards the Lebanon Druses, as he considers them incapable of serious opposition owing to their geographical situation.

A letter has been reported from Selim Pasha El Atrash, a leading Druse, proposing a Sherif-paid force of 600 Druses to take over the Turkish Police Force of Suweida (25 miles N.E. of Deraa). The Turks were not to know the Paymaster, but presumably were also to pay the voluntary police. The Druses are getting foodstuffs from both sides and are well content. There are about 7,000 fighting men, but there does not seem to be any commanding personality among their Sheikhs, who are legion.

A doctor in the Turkish Army, prisoner of war, states that the Druses before the war, especially those of the Lebanon, were very pro-British, but were hostile to the Christians in those districts. During the present war they have suffered severely from starvation, but have kept very quiet, with the result that few of them have been deported.

An Arab prisoner of war states that the Druses of the Hauran do not care who rules over them so long as they prosper. At present all payments are made to them in gold. The Arabs and Druses are on friendly terms. This is especially the case between the Arabs in the Damascus district and the Druses of the Hauran.

TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONER BY THE TURKS.

A British C.Q.M.S. who was taken prisoner by the Turks on 25th November, 1917, and who was set free by the arrival of the British troops, states that his clothes were taken from him when lying on the field, but on arrival at Battalion Headquarters, an officer had endeavoured to find out where his stolen clothes were, and not being able to do so, had given him a greatcoat. There seemed to be a great shortage of dressings and medical stores in the hospitals, also of food. During the 14 days that he was in the American Hospital in Jerusalem, he only received meat twice. Soup and bread was the only ration received during the remainder of the time, and the boiled wheat from which the soup was made. The Americans stated that they were unable to give him better rations, as there would be trouble if it were found out that he was receiving better rations than the Turkish troops. He was interrogated several times both by Turkish and Austrian officers. During the whole of the time that he was a prisoner, no attempts were made in any way to obtain information by threats, nor was any attempt made to supply him with alcohol.

Three or four of those wounded in the same locality as himself were left to die by the Turks, after having had their clothes taken away from them. They appeared to be Ghurkas. He did not believe that the Turks actually killed wounded men.

He was not given any pay by the Turkish authorities, but he believes that the last batch of prisoners had been given £10 each in paper money before being sent north.

BEHAVIOUR OF GERMAN OFFICERS IN PALESTINE.

A very reliable report has been sent from Bethlehem on the behaviour of Captain Baron Von Perfall, a son of the Kaiser's A.D.C., while O.C. Motor Lorry Column in Bethlehem, during September 1917. According to this report he placed a soldiers' latrine in a sacred grotto, which he subsequently blew up with dynamite. He also allowed his men to use the Carmelite Convent Cemetery as a latrine. With his own hands he broke the seals which had been placed by the Turkish Authorities on the doors of the Library and Chapel belonging to the Convent, and destroyed books and furniture to the estimated value of Fr. 100,000. He ordered all the trees and vines in an area of 30,000 sq. metres to be uprooted and destroyed, using motor lorries to pull the stumps out of the ground. The Baron was warned many times by the Turkish Authorities to cease from these unchivalrous acts, but the warning had no effect.

TURKISH SECRET SERVICE.

A prisoner of war supplies the following information. Jemal Pasha draws £24,000 in gold every month for secret service work. The head of the Service is Abdul Hamid Bey Said of Egypt. The personnel of the service consists chiefly of Egyptian nationalists with a few Cretans, Tripolitans, Tunisians, Jews and Syrian Arabs. The reason that the Egyptians and North Africans are preferred is that being strangers to Syria, they are unbiassed and have no enemies. They are given passes allowing them to circulate in a certain area, but if they are caught in the area of Military Operations, they are arrested, as the Turks fear that they might desert to the British. Their method of obtaining information is to make friends in coffee houses, and report all anti-Government conversations. Their reward consists solely in exemption from Military service. They are the scum of the population, and are highly corrupt.

This informant was not able to say much concerning the Military Secret Service but he was of the opinion that there is not any definite organisation of such. All the information the Turks received during the time they held the Gaza line was supplied by Bedouins, who crossed over from the British to the Turkish lines. These must have been untrustworthy as they supplied information to both sides.

TREATMENT OF THE ALLIES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A prisoner of war captured 5/3/18 states that they are not molested in any way whatever, and are allowed to move about freely. All political talk, however, is strictly forbidden in the town which is infested with Government spies.

THE ARMENIANS.

A prisoner of war captured 5/3/18 states that the Turkish Government has ceased persecuting the Armenians, but in spite of the cessation of Deportations, the Armenians are in a deplorable condition, and deaths from starvation and disease are innumerable. Armenian refugees are found in the Homs-Hamah area.

All Armenians in Nablus have been sent to Damascus. In a report from Jaffa it is stated that the latest rumour concerning the Armenian refugees concentrated in the Aleppo district is that the Government has initiated a campaign of converting them forcibly to Mohammedanism, placing the children in Mohammedan Schools. Those refusing are deported further to certain death.

RE-OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE AND MESOPOTAMIA.

A German prisoner of war, captured recently, stated that the re-occupation by the Turks was known to be impossible without the assistance of the Germans on a considerable scale, and he could not see how that assistance could be forthcoming. He believed, however, that the Turkish Government would make every effort to maintain intact the Turkish dominion in Northern Syria, but he considered it quite possible that they might be forced to abandon this claim.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TURKEY.

The following economic conditions are reported in the Beirut area during February:—

Crops: On account of lack of seed and labourers only 50 or 60% of the pre-war area is under cultivation around Beirut; at Aleppo, Hama, and Homs only 20% has been sown.

Prices, etc.: There is a great shortage of all articles that formerly came from Europe. Cloth costs £T10 to £T25 (paper) per metre.

Recently prices have fallen somewhat, as people who have hoarded food for six months have been selling it to buy other necessities, under the belief that the war will not last much longer.

Wheat costs £T90 to £T105 the Kantar (=54/- per cwt.). No commercial goods worth mentioning have come to Beirut from Europe. £T1 (paper) had risen in value to 17 Pt., but fell again to 15 Pt.

Example of recent prices in Aleppo:—

	Oct. and Nov., 1917.	Dec., 1917.	Jan., 1919.
Flour.....	Pt. 20 (coin) per rotol (8½d. per lb.)	Pt. 45 (coin) per rotol (1s. 7d. per lb.).	Pt. 45 (coin) per rotol (1s. 7d. per lb.).
Meat	Pt. 30 (coin) per rotol (1s. per lb.).....	Pt. 60 (coin) per rotol (2s. per lb.).	Pt. 120 (coin) per rotol (4s. per lb.).

The above prices are very considerable, taking into consideration that 1 Pt. (coin) is worth five times Pt. (paper).

A deserter, interrogated at the end of February, stated that there is almost an entire absence of metal coinage in Constantinople. The £T1 is only worth 1 mejidieh (3/7d). The price of a loaf is 25 Pt. (coin) and a £T I note is refused if tendered in payment of same. The civil population gets all its bread from the Army on bread tickets, one 1 2/5th lbs. loaf for two persons.

Refugees, now in Ram Allah, state that the food problem in the Nablus area is very acute. Owing to the seizure of animals, practically no winter crop is sown. Wheat flour at Nablus is 16 Pt. per rotol (6 1/3rd lbs.) and at Homs 30 Pt. per rotol.

A prisoner of war, a native of Northern Syria, gives the following trade prices in Damascus for November, 1917:—

(2½ lbs.) 1 oke of bread	...	10Pt.
1 oke of durra	...	5Pt.

The following list of prices has been compiled from letters found on prisoners of war during November and December, 1917 :--

Eggs ...	5Pt. each.	Mutton	
Butter ...	170Pt. per oke (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.)	Goat	... 70Pt. per oke.
Sugar ...	200Pt. " "	Beef	
Olive Oil ...	160Pt. " "	Wood	... 2Pt. " "
Olives ...	70Pt. " "	Charcoal	... 8Pt. " "
Haricot Beans	100Pt. " "	Soap	... 160Pt. " "
Brains ...	18Pt. each.	Shoes	... 300Pt. per pair.

TAXATION.

Taxation in the Saida Kaimakamlik (20 miles S. of Beirut) 37% on produce of land, 50% on the fig crop. The Government takes the whole raisin crop.

In the Jenin district (16 miles N. of Nablus) there has been a 50% tax imposed on wheat, barley and other crops.

ATTACHMENT.

A note on the Committee of Union and Progress.

G.S.P.I.,
G.H.Q.,
E.E.F.

ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

No. 1., 18th March, 1918.

THE COMMITTEE OF UNION AND PROGRESS.

The present Government of Turkey is composed entirely of Members of the Secret Society, known as the Committee of Union and Progress. This Committee began its career in Salonica in 1903. The members at that time were young Turkish officers and civilians, who were discontented with the rule of the late Sultan Abdul Hamed, and were convinced that Turkey would lose her European Provinces and be entirely ruined unless the Sultan was overthrown, and the Turkish Constitution of 1876 restored.

Talaat Pasha, the present Grand Vizier, Enver Pasha, the present Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief, Jemal Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief in Syria, and Rahmi Bey, the Governor-General of Smyrna were the leading figures in this first venture.

Between 1903 and 1908 a large number of officers of the Turkish Army in Macedonia became infected with the ideas that governed this movement, and in July, 1908, a military revolt, beginning at Monastir, spread rapidly through the Turkish forces in European Turkey, and the Sultan was obliged to bow before the storm. He consented to restore the Constitution of 1876, which professed to give Parliamentary representation and equal rights to all Turkish subjects alike.

For a very short time, the Sultan's concessions created great enthusiasm and there was much talk of liberty, equality, and fraternity, but at the very first elections to the Turkish Parliament it became clear that the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress never intended that non-Turkish populations of the Empire should really obtain a share in the government of the country, and much discontent was caused by their interference with the freedom of elections.

In April, 1909, a mutiny of the Garrison of Constantinople took place, directed against the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, but this was suppressed by an Army from Salonica, which stood by the Committee. The Sultan Abdul Hamid was dethroned, martial law was proclaimed, and all the known opponents of the Committee assassinated, imprisoned, or driven out of the country.

Up to this time, the Committee leaders, who were mostly young and inexperienced men, had not taken high office in the Government, but had allowed some of the elder statesmen of Turkey to fill various cabinet posts, subject to a considerable amount of interference from the Committee. But they now began to take a larger share in the direct government of the country, and as the elder statesmen, who disagreed with the Committee, were gradually dismissed, or resigned in disgust, their places were taken by "Young Turks" of the Salonica gang, or by others who had joined the Committee after the revolution.

Although not one half of the inhabitants of the Turkish Empire are Turks, it became apparent that none but the Turks or those who had adopted the Turkish point of view had any chance of a career in the public service or the army. Albanians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Arabs, Armenians and Kurds were all harassed and persecuted if they tried to preserve their separate nationality, customs and language, and revolts took place in Syria and Albania against the tyranny of the Young Turks, whose aggressive policy also brought them in the year 1911 into conflict with Italy on the North African Coast, and caused the loss of the province of Tripoli, Rhodes and eleven other islands in the Archipelago.

Matters reached a climax in the summer of 1912 with a rebellion of the Albanians, which obliged the Young Turk Government to resign, and make way for a Cabinet of Elder Statesmen under Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha and Kiamil Pasha.

But the Balkan states had already made a secret alliance against Turkey in consequence of this ill-treatment of the Christians who still remained under Turkish rule, and although the new Cabinet tried to avoid war by a compromise, their hands were forced by the Young Turk element in the Army.

The Balkan War broke out in October, 1912, ending with the loss of all the European provinces of Turkey, except a small area in the immediate neighbourhood of Constantinople.

The Turkish defeat, and the consequent unpopularity of the Ghazi Mukhtar Cabinet had given the men of the Committee another opportunity which they turned to their advantage.

On January 23rd, 1913, Enver and Talaat, with a band of Committee desperadoes, rushed the Government offices in Constantinople, killed Nazim Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief, and set up a Committee Government, which continued the war with very little success, Adrianople being taken by the Bulgarians on the 26th March, 1913. A treaty of peace was signed in London on 30th May, by which Turkey gave up Adrianople, and almost all her European provinces. But towards the end of June, the Balkan Allies quarrelled among themselves. Bulgaria was defeated by the Greeks, Serbs, Montenegrins and Roumanians, and the Turks took advantage of Bulgaria's weakness to advance under Enver Pasha and recovered Adrianople, which they were allowed by the Powers to retain.

This success greatly strengthened the hands of the Committee Government, which at once set to work to reorganize the Army and to crush all opposition by executing, imprisoning, or driving out of the country every active enemy of their policy of strengthening the Turkish element in the Empire at the expense of the others.

In the beginning of 1914, the German General, Liman von Sanders, arrived in Constantinople with a large staff of German Officers, and was appointed by the Young Turk Government to effective command of the forces in Constantinople, Adrianople, and the Dardanelles. For more than thirty years, German Officers had acted as instructors of the Turkish Army, and hundreds of Turkish Officers had received their military education in Germany, where they had been taught that the German Army was perfect in all respects, and could never suffer defeat. At the same time, the Young Turks hated Russia, which had defeated Turkey in several wars, and annexed large portions of the Turkish Empire, and resented the advice of England and France to deal more generously with their non-Turkish populations, and to avoid the militarism which was encouraged by Germany.

Public opinion, as we understand it, does not exist in Turkey. The great majority of the people are ignorant, and obedient to any authority. When a handful of unscrupulous adventurers therefore seize upon power, and appoint their friends to all the higher commands, it is not to be wondered at that the country submits meekly until those who have acquired supreme command in this manner are overthrown by rival adventurers, or by military disaster.

The Young Turks of the Committee, knowing the attitude of the Entente Powers towards Russia, gradually drifted into a German Alliance, and when the present war broke out in August, 1914, the Turkish Government very promptly displayed its sympathies by allowing the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" to enter the Dardanelles under the German flag, contrary to the laws of neutrality, and, after 8 months preparation, fortified with German financial assistance, finally took sides against us by attacking the British Army in Egypt, and the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea.

Since the declaration of war, the tyranny of the Committee of Union and Progress has quite surpassed the Autocracy of Sultan Abdul Hamid in crime and general misrule. The present Turkish Government is merely the executive Branch of this Secret Society, which is responsible for the wholesale massacre of eight hundred thousand Armenians, for the hanging of all the leaders of the Arab movement on whom they could lay their hands, and for the murder of many leading Turks, including the Crown Prince, who tried to oppose them.

The only hope now of the Committee of Union and Progress lies in what remains of the Turkish Army. By defeating the remnant we shall have the satisfaction of stamping out one of the most abominable and criminal organisations which has ever disturbed the peace and welfare of Europe.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.

SECRET.



POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY TERRITORY.

30th March, 1918.

COMMITTEE OF UNION AND PROGRESS.

All prisoners hitherto interrogated seem to agree that the opposition to the Committee is negligible, and that it would require a man of considerable courage and influence to make any headway against the existing regime.

It is stated that the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress are making fortunes by monopolizing supplies of all sorts.

From a French Intelligence source it is reported that Jemal Pasha is to return to Syria.

An officer, prisoner of war, states that jealousy exists between Enver and Jemal. He had heard a rumour that this was also the case between Enver and Talaat. It is said that Jemal has been secretly currying favour with certain officers in the army by favouritism and other means. This prisoner's private opinion was that in the event of any split, Jemal would have the largest following.

An agent supplies the information that there appears to have been a serious breach within the Committee of Union and Progress in December, 1917, and that this may become more serious still unless the food situation improves and Germany is persuaded to send reinforcements to Turkey. The real reason that Talaat went to Brest-Litovsk and to Berlin was to regain his prestige by bringing back a peace treaty in one pocket and an arrangement with the Ukraine for foodstuffs in the other.

The fact that, during the absence of Talaat Pasha, Jemal acted as Minister of the Interior, would seem to indicate that the position of Jemal is as strong as, if not stronger than ever, as otherwise he would not have held a post which, next to that of Grand Vizier and Minister for War, is probably the most responsible one in Turkey at the present time.

Another agent reports that the Committee has sent special missions recently to Persia, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan, and that the Pan-Turanian movement is still very much in the foreground. Moreover, a very violent anti-British campaign is being organised in Turkestan.

The following information is obtained from a German source. Enver is the Turk whom the Germans trust most, while Jemal has been under suspicion. For this reason Jemal was sent to Germany. Since his return he is believed to have become more reliable.

An officer, prisoner of war, captured on 11th March, 1918, states that Enver is all powerful and controls every public office.

Another Officer, prisoner of war, maintains that there is quite a considerable proportion of the population who would be only too ready to join any movement having as its object a Turco-British rapprochement, but they are afraid to give any sort of expression to these predilections because they fear the agents of the Committee of Union and Progress, who would have them banished or executed in the event of their discovery. This pro-British sympathy is especially strong amongst the Turkish naval officers.

Having now no hope of saving Mesopotamia or Palestine, the Committee of Union and Progress are trying to develop the Pan-Turanian movement, and they are turning their backs on the Arab element. Jemal Pasha has gone so far as to suggest that Turkey should definitely abandon the Caliphate and work for a large Turkish Empire stretching from Constantinople to Tibet, and not concerning itself with the Moslem spiritual world at all.

It is reported that recently the Turkish Minister, in Berne, declared that Turkey would demand the integrity of her former Empire on the conclusion of peace, and that under no pretext and in no form would Turkey give up the countries now occupied by the enemy. Turkey could rely upon the Central Empires in this, because Turkey had detached Russia from her Allies by closing the Dardanelles and had prevented Austria from being surrounded by erecting a "living rampart of our glorious soldiers" on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He added that Turkey was ready to form part of the Society of Nations and to help in the suppression of militarism. Turkey was longing for a period of rest in order to prove that she was capable of carrying out reforms in her dominions.

TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

A prisoner of war, recently captured, states that the condition of British prisoners of war in the Ras El Ain (on the Bagdad railway) and Tel Helif military prisons (in the neighbourhood of Mosul) is not very bad, but much of the supplies intended for them has been seized by the officer in charge, one Tewfik Bey, who is said to have made £70,000 by this means. He was sent to Damascus for court-martial, but was acquitted and promoted. A Commission of Danish Red Cross doctors has been entrusted with the task of examining into the condition of British prisoners, but it has not yet arrived.

Another prisoner of war states that he saw 80 British prisoners near Nablus, in December, 1917. Almost all were barefooted, as the Turks had deprived them of their boots.

THE ARMENIANS.

The condition of exiled Armenians in Syria is reported to be pitiful. The women are compelled to work on the railway, and children, even under the age of twelve years, work all day long. Scores die weekly from exposure and starvation.

A prisoner of war, captured 15th March, 1918, stated that on the Caucasus front he had had personal experience of Armenian atrocities, and that he had seen wells in the Mush district filled with corpses.

An officer prisoner of war states that since peace has been concluded with Russia, the Armenians who had been exiled to Mosul and Deir Ez Zor are being sent back to their own country but their treatment on the march is such that most of them succumb to fatigue and want of food before they reach their homes.

An Armenian Priest has supplied the following details with regard to Armenian atrocities perpetrated under the auspices of the existing Turkish Government. 150,000 were massacred at Deir ez Zor where the women were turned out of the town. These female victims were made to dig ditches, into which, after they had been murdered, they were thrown. They were divided into groups of 5,000. After the first group of women had been massacred, another 5,000 were forced to bury them, and in their turn, prepare their own graves, and so on.

The usual procedure in the sack of an Armenian town is as follows. The inhabitants are marched out in a procession of several thousand persons, nearly all on foot, escorted by gendarmes. Once clear of the town the men are separated from the women and brutally murdered. Those who accept Mohammedanism are permitted to keep their houses and property. When the procession arrives at a Turkish village, the gendarmes invite the inhabitants to come out and do what they like, whereupon the unfortunate convoy is given over to the mercy of savage Turkish peasants. Pillage, torture, public violations, and assassinations for pleasure, these are every-day scenes. It has been estimated that out of a convoy of 10,000 people at least 100 to 160 young women were abducted every night; most of these, after having been submitted to the vilest treatment, were subsequently murdered. The informant, on one occasion, saw children abandoned by their mothers, who, being unable to carry them, had left them by the roadside. Children thus abandoned in the Vilayet of Sivas were seized by the Turks in the neighbourhood and buried alive.

The above details, as to the methods of the Committee of Union and Progress in Armenia, although furnished by an Armenian, who would naturally be prejudiced, are considered in the main reliable, and are corroborated by many other witnesses.

RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKS AND GERMANS.

A Turkish diplomat recently stated that the attitude which the Turks have now taken up is that if the Germans cannot bring about a general peace, the Turks cannot continue to fight for such causes as that of Alsace-Lorraine. From another source it is reported that in certain influential quarters in Constantinople the feeling exists that if the Germans wish to continue the war they must use their own troops to fight the British.

The following paragraph is taken from the diary of a Turkish Officer, under date 22nd December, 1917:—

"A German soldier is considered superior to a Turkish Major, and this leads to enmity between the Germans and the Turks."

An Officer, prisoner of war, recently captured, states that the dislike for the Germans in Turkey is in a great part due to their overbearing attitude. A German Subaltern will frequently give his orders to a senior Turkish Officer, and German Officers when travelling by train object to Turkish Officers being in the same carriage with them. Much comment is heard amongst Turkish troops to the effect that German troops, in Palestine, never fight in the front line.

An agent reports that Talaat Pasha has had a violent quarrel with Berlin, and particularly with Von Kuhlmann. He openly accused Germany of having deserted her allies. He returned from Berlin without any promise of the 300,000 German reinforcements he had hoped for.

It is reported that in an anti-German riot, which took place recently in Damascus, four German Officers were killed. This is corroborated from various other sources.

A German Officer, in Beirut, describing recently the situation of the Germans in Syria, said: "We have not come here to free the Turks from the English, or to defend their country, but to seize the Turks by the scruff of the neck if they attempted to surrender, or to make a separate peace."

THE ARAB MOVEMENT.

Two Arabs, who left Tafleh (S.E. of the Dead Sea), recently report that all the people in that district, both Christians and Moslems, are in favour of the Sherif. The Arabs between the south end of the Dead Sea and Hebron are all pro-British.

A prisoner of war, captured 10th March, 1918, states that the hatred for the Turks in Aleppo is not so pronounced as in Beirut and Damascus.

An Arab Sheikh reports that the Balka tribes, who occupy a very extensive tract of country north and south of Es Salt, are pro-British and pro-Sherif, and that, as soon as the Sherif reaches them, all the Balka will join his forces against the Turks.

An Officer, prisoner of war, captured 10th March, 1918, states that the Arabs are ill-treated, which is generally the cause of their desertion. Many of them, who are accused of British sympathies, are deported. This system has only been in force since the capture of Jerusalem. A certain number of them take to the hills as soon as opportunity offers.

It is reported from Jerusalem that two men have arrived who purport to be sent by the Sheikhs of the Ajlun (south-west of the Hauran) to the Sherif Feisal (son of the King of the Hejaz), mistakenly believed to be in Jerusalem, and to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces, to say that they were anxiously waiting to be released from the Turkish yoke of oppression and requesting that they may be freed before being robbed of their new crops. About six weeks before they left their country the Sheikhs of the Ajlun were called to Deraa, and were asked by the Vali of Damascus to fight the Emir of the Ruala, who had made a compact with the Sherif and the English. The Sheikhs collected 400 volunteers, but they all deserted in a few days, after which an order was issued that they were exempt from military service.

These two Arabs declare that their country has been ruined by the Turks and that, on the other hand, rumours are current that in the country occupied by the British, sugar, rice, and clothing are selling at very cheap rates, and they are therefore anxious to come over to the British. They state that several hundred Bedouin tents have already crossed the lines in the Jordan valley into British occupied territory and many others are waiting the opportunity to follow suit.

A prisoner of war supplies the information that at the outbreak of the revolt of the Hejaz, the Turkish Government appointed the Sherif Ali Haidar (a cousin of the King of the Hejaz) as Sherif of Mecca, giving him many presents and considerable sums of money to distribute in Medina, which Ali Haidar kept for himself. He consequently incurred the displeasure of his compatriots and when, for the first time, a British aeroplane flew over Medina, he retired to Damascus.

Fahri Pasha, O.C. Turkish Garrison in Medina, was opposed to the evacuation of Medina, suggested some time ago by Enver, on the ground that it would have a bad moral effect not only on the Turkish Army, but on the civil population of Turkey.

Since the Ukraine has recognised the independence of the Moslem republics in the Caucasus and Turkestan, the Committee of Union and Progress sees in the forming of a Moslem confederation the means whereby the Arabs will be compelled to recognise the Sultan of Turkey as Caliph.

Refugees from Junie (on the coast N. of Beirut) who arrived in Cyprus 8th March, 1918, state as follows:—

Moslem Arabs in Junie are so anxious to be quit of the Turk that they have even been heard to say that when the Allies arrive they will "wear a hat and embrace the Cross."

An interesting report has been received, which hitherto lacks confirmation, that the Sheikh el Islam was sent from Constantinople recently to endeavour to arrange terms with the King of the Hejaz.

THE GERMANS IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

It is reported that tracts of land around Haifa have been bought up by Germans who expropriated local owners through the medium of the German Consul and that the title deeds are being considerably ante-dated, in order that the British, if they occupy the country, should respect the transactions.

For some years the Germans, in Haifa, have been acquiring land from the fellahin by means of foreclosing mortgages. These unfortunate fellahin were rarely successful in their appeals to the courts for extension of time, as the judges were under the influence of the German Consul. Moreover, the fellahin, at El Tireh, made complaints that Germans were appropriating property there to which they had no title. The German Consul proceeded to investigate the matter, but the fellahin, believing the result to be a foregone conclusion, took affairs into their own hands, and shot a German official who was accompanying the German Consul. The German Government thereupon made a strong protest to the Sublime Porte, and a Turkish gun-boat proceeded to El Tireh. Thus over-awed, the fellahin were obliged to suffer in silence.

A prisoner of war, captured 15th March, 1918, states that at Mersina (the port of Adana), his native place, the Germans have not made any progress commercially. Business in his district is in the hands of Greeks and Armenians, and to a limited extent of French and British firms. German goods are not appreciated there. German commercial travellers come from time to time, but transact very little business. As far as he knew, German commercial enterprise has not out-stripped that of France in Beirut and Northern Syria.

The Germans have established "bureaux d'information" in every large town and city where newspapers, cartoons, and other forms of propaganda are published. These "bureaux" do not seem to have been an unqualified success, as they are popularly styled Sakhta Salonu or "halls of lies."

On 1st February, 1918, the Germans began to buy grain for gold without questioning the price. They have bought up all the wheat in the Tulkeram neighbourhood and the villages near the front. The Germans, at Rayak, have recently received a supply of gold for buying up grain.

THE JEWS IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

A prisoner of war, an Armenian doctor, states that the Jews in Syria can be said rather to be neutral than to favour either side, but that they adopt a conciliatory attitude to whichever brings them the most profit.

Another prisoner of war states that the Jews of Kalkilieh (15 miles N.E. of Jaffa) and Sabieh (5 miles west of Kalkilieh) were evacuated north on about 16th March, 1918. The Jewish chemist, at Kalkilieh, had orders to pack up his dispensary and to be ready to move north with the army.

The following is an extract from an article in the Turkish journal "Tasvir-I-Efkiar":—

"The Entente are trying to curry favour with the Jews. The Jews, in Turkey, however, have always been loyal subjects, and we are glad to see them immigrate into Turkey, when they do so with the intention of becoming good patriots. Certain Utopians have invented Zionistic principles which appeal to adventurers. Naturally no country wants to be divided, so we cannot encourage Zionism. Fortunately, the majority of our Jews are faithful to the State, and, for this reason, there has never been, properly speaking, any Jewish question in our Empire."

A refugee, from Junie (on the coast north of Beirut) states that the Jews in that town, and in Aleppo, do not air their political opinions, but are generally believed to be neutral. When Jerusalem was taken, local opinion, in Aleppo, was inclined to the idea that the Jews had betrayed the town, and they were therefore looked upon with suspicion.

THE DRUSES.

In July, 1917, the expected rebellion of the Druses was delayed by the giving of large presents to the Sheikhs. Turkish deserters, bringing with them a rifle and ammunition, are protected from the Turkish authorities by the Druses. The Druses treat Christian refugees with every consideration, but their attitude towards the Christians, who have lived in the Hauran district for a long time, is not so friendly. The Druses seem to favour the Arab movement.

HEALTH.

An Officer, prisoner of war, a doctor, states that the worst period, in Syria, for cholera, is from April to October. Typhus rages more particularly in the winter months.

A prisoner of war, captured 15th March, 1918, states that since the summer of 1917, when there was a certain amount of cholera on the Sinai front, he had not heard of any epidemics.

An Officer Prisoner of War, who deserted from the Hejaz Expeditionary Force on December 18th, 1917, states that the health of the troops in the Hejaz has been much impaired by the prevalence of a peculiar form of scurvy, the symptoms of the disease being fits and weakness in the legs. The cause is said to be lack of proper nourishment. It is reported that Falkenhayn visited the hospitals at Zahle (25 miles east of Beirut) and was disgusted at their condition. The occupants of 150 houses in Homs have been evicted and some 5,000 beds installed for sick and wounded.

It is reported that there have been periodic outbreaks of cholera in Tiberias.

The Turks have been accused of wilfully sending soldiers who have been in contact with cholera to the front in order that when they are taken prisoners they may spread the disease in our ranks. The matter is being investigated.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE TURKISH ARMY (Food, Clothing, etc.).

A deserter who surrendered on the 9th March, 1918, states that there has been no renewal of clothes or boots in his regiment for some time. The rations are bad. For five days recently they had none issued, after which a limited amount of bread was served out. They were in the habit of supplementing their rations with any cattle they were able to commandeer.

From reliable information it is understood that very liberal rations are being served out by the Military Authorities to all Turkish Officers in and around Constantinople. These rations amount to considerably more than the requirements of the Officers themselves, so that they are able to sell a part thereof at very remunerative prices on the market. This is evidently a new method of doing away with the recent discontent among a large number of officers in the Army. Saddlery is very short and carpet saddles stuffed with straw, of the type formerly used by peasants for their mules, now replace deficiencies in cavalry units.

Saddles are made out of old clothes, blankets, etc. The case of an Arab soldier in Palestine who sold two sand bags and was hanged, was cited by the informant to give an adequate idea of this shortage. The above is confirmed by an entry in a Turkish Officer's diary found among captured documents.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TURKEY.

A refugee from Junie states that wheat is being bought in large quantities at Aleppo by the Germans, regardless of price, causing much discontent locally owing to the consequent rise in prices.

In Constantinople bread tickets are issued, allowing each individual $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per diem.

Germany is sending Turkey drugs and war material in exchange for cotton and meat.

The following table shows a list of prices (all in paper money) per lb. recently paid in Constantinople:—

Bread (ticket)	Pt. 1	Potatoes	Pt. 14
Rice	Pt. 50	Fowls	Pt. 26
Bulgur	Pt. 23	Figs	Pt. 27
Butter	Pt. 125	Raisins	Pt. 23
Meat	Pt. 24	Onions	Pt. 5
Milk	Pt. 24	Honey	Pt. 60
Olive Oil	Pt. 75	Coffee.....	Pt. 205
Eggs (each)	Pt. 5	Imitation Coffee	Pt. 30
Sugar	Pt. 65	Chestnuts	Pt. 12
Beans	Pt. 14	Apples	Pt. 14
Soap	Pt. 55	Flax	Pt. 11

In Constantinople paper money only is used, and paper has a higher value than in outlying districts, where it is worth from Pt. 14 to 20. On the other hand a prisoner of war (reliability not guaranteed), states that in Constantinople, in the same month, the £T 1 paper was only exchanging for Pt. 10 to 14.

Paper currency has been issued for £T 50, 25, 5, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and also for Pt. 25, 5, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1.

A stamp is currency for 1 metallik.

The use of coin is not only regarded as unpatriotic, but even renders the offender liable to punishment.

The following rates of exchange are reported for January:—£T 1 (paper) in Damascus Pt. 14, in Medina Pt. 13, and in Aleppo Pt. 15.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following information has been supplied by two prisoners of war, recently captured:—

The War Levy, imposed during the first 12 months of hostilities, ruined the farmers by depriving them of cattle and cereals.

Germany had given Turkey to understand that the war could not possibly last more than a year, and consequently the Turkish Government, with more faith than discretion, ordered considerable supplies to be sent to Germany, leaving only enough for the needs of the army, without taking into consideration the needs of the civil population. The ruthless measures adopted in the conscription of men for military service and the enormous losses in men that Turkey has sustained, have naturally prejudiced the agricultural prosperity of the country. Such inroads were also made on the stocks of farmers that there are hardly any animals or farm vehicles left. A large number of animals were ear-marked by the Government for food, but, as the population was not in a financial position to buy, these were subsequently ordered to be used for agricultural purposes. They were, however, in such bad condition that they were unable to perform the full amount of work required.

This year the Turkish Government has made some attempt to remedy these evils by the distribution of seed, but the people were so short of food that they employed the seed for nourishment, and what remained was but little sown owing to a shortage of ploughs.

A report has been received that only 20% of the cultivatable area in the Vilayets of Brusa (south of the Sea of Marmora), Konia (east of Smyrna), Angora (centre of Asia Minor) and Castamouni (north of Angora) is sown. The harvest in these Vilayets is gathered from July 15th onwards.

In the Vilayets of Adana and Aleppo, reports state that approximately 30% of the land is cultivated. The harvest in these districts is gathered in May and June.

The soil in the Vilayet of Smyrna is very fertile and the inhabitants are industrious. 35% of the soil is cultivated. The fig and raisin crops usually amount to 40% of the produce; but, owing to the war, and the consequent lack of manure and sulphur for the destruction of disease (Phylloxera), the crop will not exceed 20% of the fig and raisin produce in a normal year.

Most of the grain depôts in Turkey are reported empty, and therefore, it is not likely that this year's harvest will be sufficient to meet the needs of both the army and the civil population. From this it follows that Turkey will not be in a position to export wheat to Germany as in former years.

The following description has been obtained from a native, who, for the last two years was employed as a ploughman in the Jebel Drus. He confirms previous reports that last year's crops were rather poor on account of the lack of rain in the Jebel Drus and the Hauran. He states that the Druses were exempt from taxation last year, and, consequently, being better off than their neighbours, have sown all their lands.

The grain fields of both the Hauran and the Jebel Drus districts promise excellent results this year, the rainfall having been plentiful.

ATTACHMENT.

A note on the "Preliminaries of the Arab Revolt."

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.

ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

No. 2., 30th March, 1918.

PRELIMINARIES OF THE ARAB REVOLT.

Ten years ago a revolution was achieved in Turkey by a party whose leading spirits had one paramount purpose—to restore the Ottoman Empire to independence and power by creating a National bond of union. In principle this was a great and laudable idea, sure of wide sympathy in the civilised world. In practice, however, the organisers of the Revolution, deeply imbued with the traditions of a governing race, understood by unity simply the assimilation of all non-Turkish races and ideals in the Empire to the Turks. No allowance was to be made for anyone else. Those elements, which might try to maintain a measure of separate individuality, were to be coerced by ruthless force, or, if need be, eliminated altogether.

Ideals of distinct nationality, however, were already deeply rooted in some necessary elements of the proposed single Ottoman Nation, *e.g.*, in the Greeks, and, nascent in others, notably in the Arabs. The former made no secret from the first of their determination not to be "Ottomanized." The latter waited a little till they saw by their inadequate representation in the new Parliament, by the beggarly share of power, civil or military, conceded to them, by the exclusion of their language from official use and from Government schools, that their national tradition was to be ignored and their political inferiority was to be perpetuated. Then they began to try to form a counter organization to the Committee of Union and Progress (C.U.P.) which had charged itself with the Ottomanization of the Empire. Beirut became the earliest centre of this Arab movement, and Nationalist Committees came into existence from 1910 onwards in the most populous centres of Syria, Iraq and Arabia.

In 1911 the Balkan War broke out and eventually produced two most important results. First the hardening of the Turkish idea of Ottomanization. Second, the strengthening of the ties between Turkey and the Central German Powers. Repeated efforts were made to bring about an understanding between us and the Young Turks, but they were defeated, mainly by the action of these Turks themselves, who, in order to placate reactionaries, suffered such a policy to be pursued towards Armenians and Macedonians as alienated British public opinion. In search, therefore, of some barrier to a south-eastward extension of German influence, we turned to the Arabs, whose geographical position favours the exclusion of that influence from British spheres both in Asia and Africa.

In 1908, a new Emir of Mecca, Sherif Husein Ibn Ali, had been nominated by the Anglophil Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha, as likely to maintain good relations with both the Porte and the British Power, whose dominion in India entails vital interests in the Holy Land of Islam. He proved both a stronger and more independent prince than his immediate predecessors; and under the guise of assistance to the Porte in its efforts to tighten its hold on Western Arabia, he began from the first to assert his own influence there and to attach to himself a military following among the Bedouins. By 1912, he had become the real power in the Hejaz, the Turkish Governor General retaining only formal authority.

When, two years later, war between the Allies and the Central Powers had broken out, and it was becoming clearer every day that, sooner or later, Turkey must throw in her lot with the latter, steps were taken to sound Arab leaders about their probable attitude in the event of the Porte joining our enemies. We were threatened with two new dangers. Firstly, there was the possibility of a widespread Moslem movement against Christian Powers, hostile to the Caliph. It was known that the incitement of Jihad—Holy War—was part of the German plan for upsetting the dominion of ourselves and our Allies in Asia and Africa, and should this receive the active adhesion, not only of Osmanli, but also of Arab Moslems, the position in the Near and Middle East would be very serious. Secondly, there was the probability that the vicinity of Ottoman Power to the flank of our main sea route to India and the East would be utilised for the organization, both of attacks on our communications, and also of propaganda among our Moslem dependents. We had little idea of the lengths to which German enterprise would push both submarine warfare and propaganda; but we foresaw dangers, if we could not measure them.

The influence and the power of Sherif Husein, in the religious metropolis of Islam, constituted him a personage whose definite refusal to join a Holy War against us would be of the greatest value. Moreover, his control of the Hejaz interrupted the continuity of Ottoman Command of the flank of the Red Sea. Accordingly he was doubly designated as the first Arab to be approached by us. Nor when the question was discussed in all its bearings, could any other Arab be thought of, whose identification with a movement for independence would have anything like equal efficiency. In those Arab-speaking countries, which had long been under its effective control, the Porte had pursued for generations a policy of levelling and dividing, till no single native notable retained either conspicuous pre-eminence or more than local influence. Descendants of former Arab monarchs, as for example the Ayubi family, or of powerful provincial princes, such as the Druse Shehab family, had become small folk of little account. In Syria there was no champion, and in Iraq none, except men whose names were hardly known outside. As for semi-independent and independent Arabia, the greatest Desert Chief would be accepted only by his own Bedouin tribe: the friendly Emir of Nejd, Ibn Saud, was a Wahhabi heretic; Mohammed el-Idris, the self-constituted prince of South Asir, stood for and by himself; the Imam of Yemen was again a heretic and in Turkish grip; the rest of the ruling chiefs were all too small to fill a leading national role. We had no illusions about Sherif Husein; we knew him to have no essential religious character in Islam, and only an accidental influence due to his descent and his location. We knew that this influence would not be effective with all Arabs, or indeed with most Arabs.

We knew both that the nationalist organization for which he professed to speak was ill knit and ill diffused, and also that the lack of system and discipline inherent in Arabs discounted heavily anyone's claim to speak for a large section of them. But, with all reservations made, the adhesion of the Emir of Mecca offered a better chance of uniting Arabs with us than did that of any other single man. Accordingly, once Turkey had entered the war, negotiations were opened with Sherif Husein, with a view to both a local rising in Hejaz, and a general revolt of the Arab-speaking peoples. Inconclusive communications were exchanged at first. The Turks got wind of the possible defection of the Arabs and, obtaining definite evidence from the archives of closed Consulates in Syria, began so systematic a removal of notables, that the Syrian movement for Arab independence soon lost well nigh all possible leaders of revolt, by execution, exile, or flight. With Arabia proper they could do less. Attempts to get at the Emir of Mecca through his sons were not successful, although a Medina contingent was sent to co-operate against the Canal. Meanwhile the Germans pushed their Holy War plan and procured the proclamation of Jihad all over the Ottoman Empire. Mines were sown at Akaba, and a mission was sent to sow others in the Straits of Bab el-Mandeb, but this latter plan was given away to us. The "Emden" survivors were able to escape up all the length of the Red Sea, the Emir being unable to avoid assisting them, and our blockade proved none too effective on any part of the coast.

Towards the end of May, 1916, a sudden call came to Cairo, for consultation about, and assistance towards, an immediate rising. A deputation of British officers was sent down to the Hejaz coast, south of Jeddah, and there met the Emir's youngest son. It was learned that the standard of revolt had been raised near Medina the day before, and that Jeddah was to be attacked in three days' time. The cause of this premature action, taken before anything like the necessary arms and supplies had been provided, was the appearance of a picked force of 3,000 Turkish troops in Medina. These were intended to march down through Hejaz consolidating Turkish power there, and then to continue their way to the south to join the force then besieging Aden. With them was to have come a German Mission, headed by Major Baron Othmar Von Stotzingen, a distinguished Staff officer, and including Karl Neufeld, once the Khalifa's prisoner at Khartoum. Jealousy, however, between Enver Pasha and Jemal Pasha, Governor of Syria, caused this mission to be diverted from Medina and compelled to take a circuitous route by Wejh and Yambo. Arrived there it heard of the Sherifian revolt. Its leader made his escape back to the railway, but some of his subordinates perished leaving papers which ultimately fell into our hands. These showed that the objects of the Mission and Expedition included much of great potential danger to us—propaganda in our East African possessions and in India, and establishment of wireless stations and submarine bases.

There was nothing now but to make the best of the inevitable. What assistance could be improvised was arranged for, and on June 9th, 1916, the active operations of the revolt duly began with the investment of the Turks in Jiddah, Mecca and Taif, by the forces of Emir Husein.

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