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817TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM B, THE CENTRAL HALL,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON MONDAY, MARCH 7TH, 1938,
AT 4.30 P.M.

LT.-COL. F. A. MOLONY, O.B.E., IN THE CHAIR.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Albert Hiorth, Esq., to read his paper entitled "From the River of Egypt unto the Great River, the River Euphrates."

*FROM THE RIVER OF EGYPT UNTO THE GREAT
RIVER, THE RIVER OF EUPHRATES.*

*A Suggested Solution of the Arab-Israel Problem in the Promised
Land.*

By A. HIORTH, Esq., C.E.

FROM the earliest days of the world's history, "the Ur Period" (Ur was Abraham's native place),* one man towers above all his contemporaries as the chosen ancestor of a race of people and a line of kings.

No man in history ever received greater promises and rights than he as reward for his obedience, of which we all enjoy the fruits now, and some time in future shall enjoy them even more richly than to-day :

"I will make of thee a great nation. I will bless thee and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing . . . in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. . . . Yea, a nation and a company of nations (†) shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins." (Genesis xii, 3-4, xxxv, 11.) Such a *charter of nobility* has certainly never been granted to any man either before or since, the Royal ancestor to-day of

* *Cp.* Sir Ch. Marston's Works.

† "Commonwealth of Nations ?"

kings in the Near East, and of Kings like David and Solomon, yea of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, in whom *we* "all the nations of the earth are blessed."

And a Title Deed such as that given to Abraham in Genesis xv, 18, is also certainly without parallel in history.

"Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates," a country larger than the combined area of England and Germany, which could probably hold 100 million people, if reconstructed according to the standards of antiquity (the traditional Land of Eden itself); where *all* the descendants of Abraham can be placed.

Strangely enough, the region of Ishmael is mentioned *just* after—the handmaiden's son ("a wild man") shall dwell in the land "to the east of his brethren" (Genesis xvi-12. A. V. "in the presence of all his brethren"), and Abraham fulfils this commandment even in his lifetime. He gave to Isaac, the heir with the rights of a firstborn, all that he owned, and gave to the children of his concubine gifts and allowed them to move away from Isaac his son "Eastward to the east country." (Genesis xxv, 6.)

Not only the patent and the title deed, but also the partition of the country is given, and the boundaries traced out in the field, in Palestine ("Erez Israel"—the manor of the vast estate—in Ezekiel, chap. xlvii, 13-23, and xlviii). Not only the people of the two tribes, the Jews, but also the people of the ten tribes of Israel shall own the land and divide it amongst them. Moreover, even strangers in the land who have their families there shall be granted their lots—"Lot for an inheritance." (Ezekiel xlviii, 22.) Joseph is to have two lots and the priests and Levites the "holy gift" in the midst.

Israel shall return home representatively: "I will take you, one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion" (Jer. iii, 14, 18), saith the Lord; and all the tribes are expressly represented: for then shall "the House of Judah (the Jews) go to the House of Israel and they shall come together from the land in the North to the land I gave as inheritance to your forefathers." (Cp. Jer. xxxi, 8, 10, 27, 31.) "The land in the North" and the "Islands far distant"; the new Covenant is to be made with the house of Israel. (v. 31-34 *et seq.*)

In the coat of arms of the people of the Covenant, the oldest in the world, there are two heraldic emblems, the lion and the unicorn, given by God; the Lion in Genesis xlix, 9-10, to Judah

(the father of kings), and in Deut. xxxiii, 17, "The wild ox"* to Joseph's children: Israel, "the least amongst the people chosen by the Lord"—"because He would keep His promise to the fathers." This concerns each one of us, for hereby shall "*all the families of the earth*" receive their blessing. "The right of the firstborn" was despised and sold by Esau to Jacob (Genesis xxv, 33 and I Chron. v, 1-2), even though the princely house remained in Judah.

They, the smallest nation on earth, were also, according to the promises of God, "to own the enemies' gate," translated as the "straits," that a small nation controls to-day, from Gibraltar through the Suez, past Aden, Singapore, the Panama Canal, and back.

We see the identity of the people of the twelve tribes according to the words of the Bible retained even unto the New Jerusalem: above its gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Rev. xxi, 12, *cp.* chap. 7.) The tribes must be found before fulfilment—and St. Paul speaks of Israel's "blindness in part." Blindness, but when at last the veil is lifted all Israel shall be saved. (Rom. xi, 25-26.) It is thus of interest for the Christian to-day to seek for the signs of the appearance of the tribes of Israel.†

For centuries, indeed perhaps for thousands of years, Christians have regarded the Jews as the (whole) people of the Covenant and Palestine as the "land of Promise," and all Israel's promises and blessings have unhesitatingly been transferred to the "Church"; but throughout the Bible it is Israel, the people of the twelve tribes, by whom (and to whom) the promises were given and shall be fulfilled, but it was not until the "last days" that this began to be recognised. Thus at last we now begin—after the Great War—to have glimpses of the beginning of a fulfilment of the prophecies concerning the people in the "valley of dead bones." (Ezek. xxxvii.) Judah's people and Israel's people shall both be gathered in the fatherland under one King, and in the key-chapter, Isaiah xix, 23-25, we read of Israel's gathering in the *great land of promise* which will afford room for all of them as well as for the strangers in that land.

* We find to-day in a well-known heraldic emblem both the Lion, the Unicorn, and, probably regarding a certain god-given priority, "Dieu et mon Droit."

† There are many indications to be seen of fulfilment also here, further on request from the author.

In this chapter (Isaiah xix) "The Prophecy of Egypt," a specification of time "in that time (day)" occurs several times, and in verse 23 there is mentioned the time (day) when a "high-way" (cleared way) shall run from Egypt to Assyria, and thus the nations will readily be able to pass to each other, yea and they shall even serve the Lord together. Then shall "Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the land." It would here seem that Abraham's blessing in the land of Abraham by Abraham's people shall come to fulfilment, "on that day" (*i.e.*, when the railway there is completed, and to-day it is nearly so) will the time be ripe to seek in God's Word for light upon this, for we know that he who seeketh shall find. (*Cp.* Dan. ix, 2, 22, 23.)

The lands mentioned below awake in our day, one after another, from the sleep of thousands of years, as sovereign states (kingdoms) within the League of Nations at Geneva.

1. EGYPT.*—Became this year a sovereign kingdom under King Farauk I; adopted as honorary member of the League of Nations at Geneva.

Great upheavals now appear to be imminent in the Near East. It is interesting to consider the government in Egypt, which is now sovereign after the agreement with England, and makes plans for the next fifty years regarding the complete irrigation of the country, its cultivation and a raising of the greatly increasing standard of living of the people.

The population has doubled during the past 14 years (English government) and is now about 14 millions. It is estimated that in a relatively short period it will increase to 30 millions.

Three-quarters of the present population are estimated to live on the soil, but agriculture has not been able to keep pace with the increase in the population. Yet the possibilities are almost unlimited, for perhaps less than one-thirtieth of the whole area is under full cultivation. It is here that by fully utilising the waters of the sources of the Nile that great future prospects can be realised by complete irrigation.

A provisional programme has been drawn up of work to be completed by 1953 (strangely enough the great memorable year

* Regarding the future plans for that country *vide* *Teknisk Ukeblad*, No. 8, 1937, and No. 19, 1919.

of the Pyramids), but in its perspective extends much farther, to the cultivation and full utilisation of the country.

Egypt is said to have the world's largest "rainless belt," and the River Nile remains—as always—the true source of all fertility, with its tributaries from the huge lakes on the highlands of East Africa, Lake Victoria, and Lake Albert at the outlet of the White Nile, and Lake Tsana with the Blue Nile from Abyssinia (now an Italian possession).

These unite near Khartum and water the fields of Egypt until they enter the Mediterranean at the delta. In July the Nile and its sources overflow their banks, and the mud thus deposited fertilises the irrigated areas for a crop each year of wheat, sugar, cotton, vegetables and fruit.

Since the great dams were constructed and "permanent" (perennial) irrigation made possible, there have been several crops each year and steadily increasing prosperity. In Lower Egypt there are now estimated about 12 million acres of land with modern irrigation and in Upper Egypt more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres irrigated.

Of about 5 million acres a very considerable area is to be irrigated and placed under the plough before 1953, and later on the whole country will be taken in turn. It is estimated that 13,000 million tons of water will be required, the greater part to be drawn from Gebel Awlia, Lakes Albert and Tsana, via the Asswan Dam.

The Asswan Dam, which was commenced more than 30 years ago at the first cataract, has 180 sluices, seven metres high, and can pass up to 20,000 m.³ of water per second in flood time. The dam, the height of which has twice been increased, is estimated to cost £9,000,000.

A number of other dams are also to be constructed and reinforced (and form bridges), and a new dam at Gebel Awlia. These works are estimated to cost about £6,000,000.

Lake Tsana as a reservoir, however, is an extremely delicate problem to-day. After the Abyssinian war it has become an Italian air-fleet base, and an irrigation dam in that lake, controlled by a power hostile to Egypt, would imply a life-and-death threat (hunger and pest) to many millions of people in Egypt.*

* In this connection the following passage is significant: "and the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, said the Lord, the Lord of Hosts. . . . and the river shall be wasted and dried up, and they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up . . . and everything sown by the brooks shall wither." (Isaiah xix, 4-8.)

The plan for the basin of Lake Albert alone is estimated to cost £15,000,000. From that lake the river passes through several hundred kilometres of decayed marsh districts (Sudd-districts) where up to 60 per cent. of the water is lost for irrigation, whence it is planned to conduct the water in canals, partly outside the marsh lands, an extremely complicated and costly work that will take decades.

As will be seen, the new Egypt will make great efforts to advance its largest—the world's oldest—industry, Egyptian agriculture.

Fig. 1 gives a survey of the Nile and its sources and of the sites of the dams for the irrigation works. Fig. 2 shows, with all desirable clarity, the dangerous situation of Egypt, Palestine and Syria between the kings from the north and the extreme north (Italy, Turkey and Russia?) Palestine tempts with its immeasurable wealth, and perhaps above all the entrance gates to the two continents, to Asia at Haifa and to Africa in Egypt by the Suez.*

In the *Teknisk Ukeblad* there is a description of the proposed plan for an extension of the Asswan dam, with 300,000 h.p., light, heat and electric energy for the 14,000,000 poor fellaheens of Egypt. Fig. 3 shows the Asswan dam with its sluices, where in flood time nearly 20,000 m.³ of water per second can pass,† and fig. 4, the tower-shaped power stations in the water on the upper side of the dam. (Egyptian law does not permit disfigurement of the body of the dam by any stone-cutting tools, bores or the like.) (*Cp. Teknisk Ukeblad*, No. 8, 1937.)

2. PALESTINE, the main demesne in Abraham's inheritance, "Erez Israel," since the Great War, has been far on its way towards its reclamation from the sand. Modern towns are being erected and the hills, from valley to summit, clothed with fruitful farms. During the post-war years millions of pounds have been invested, mostly by Zionists, the imports are 15-18 million pounds per year, there are several million pounds' surplus on the national budget; all this in a country the size of Wales or the county of Hedemark in Norway.

There are now nearly 500,000 Jews in that country (as compared with 900,000 Arabs). For comparison we may mention

* See note on p. 130.

† Further described in Victoria Institute's *Transactions*, 1923, and in *Teknisk Ukeblad*, 19.



FIG. 1.—The Nile and Tana Lake.

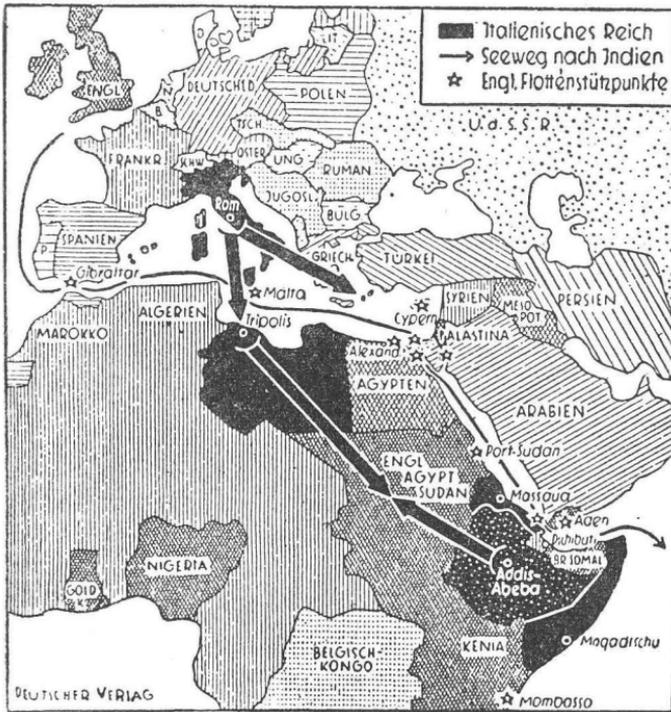


FIG. 2.

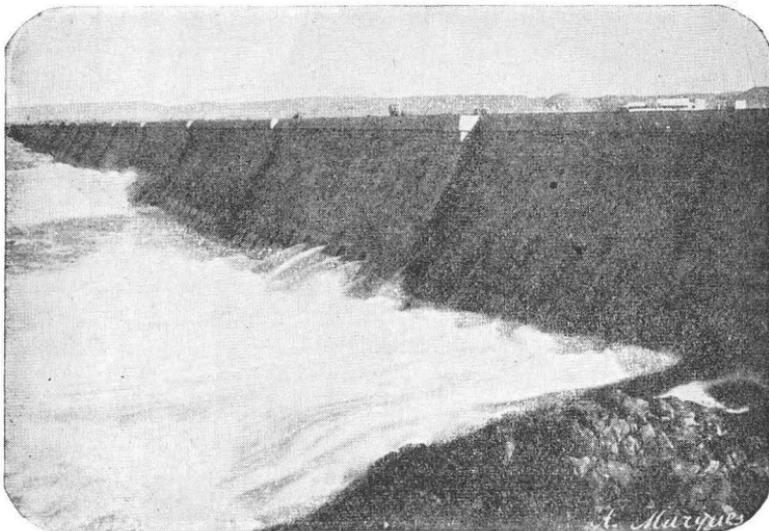


FIG. 3.—Asswan Dam.

that Ernst Blumenthal, in a lecture given at Oslo (December 4th, 1937), estimates that the Arab world occupies an area 260 times larger than Palestine.

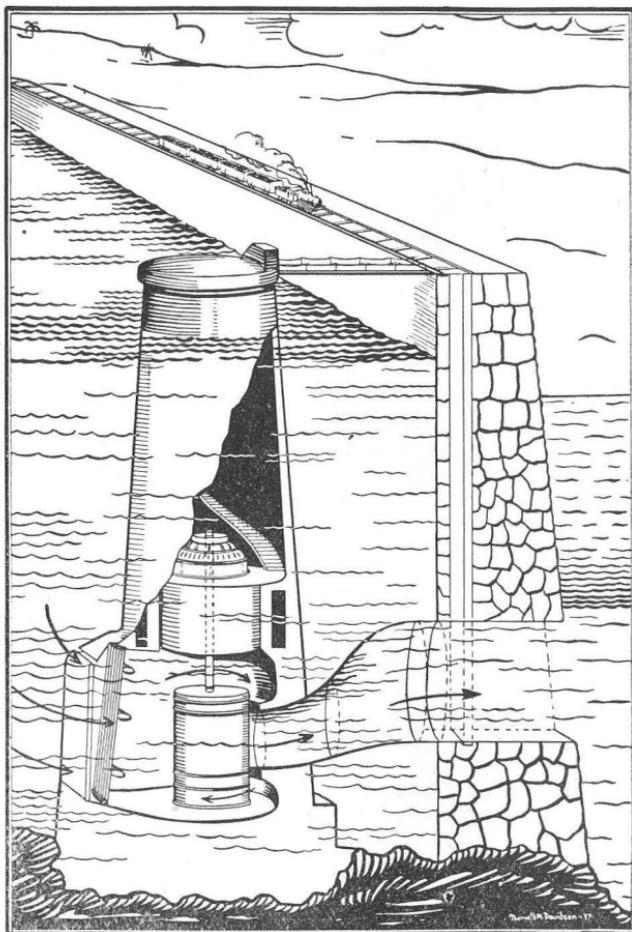


FIG. 4.

An illustration of the almost miraculous results already achieved by the Zionists by the intense restoration activities of the post-war years, is afforded by the fact that there are now said to be exported from the desert land nearest to its oppressing Turks 8-10,000,000 cases of oranges, grapefruit, etc., annually.

But at the present moment this rapid development is at a standstill. The problem of Arab *versus* Jew appears to be insoluble, and a segregation of these two closely related races would appear to be imperatively necessary if real peace is to be secured. The Bible also appears to point to a situation like that indicated above. (Genesis xvi, 12; xxv, 6; notice also Genesis xxvii, 39-41 to xxxii, 11-18, and xxxiii, 16-20.)

The Arabs possess a country of their own, with an area of 3,000,000 sq. kil., inhabited by perhaps 3,000,000 to 5,000,000

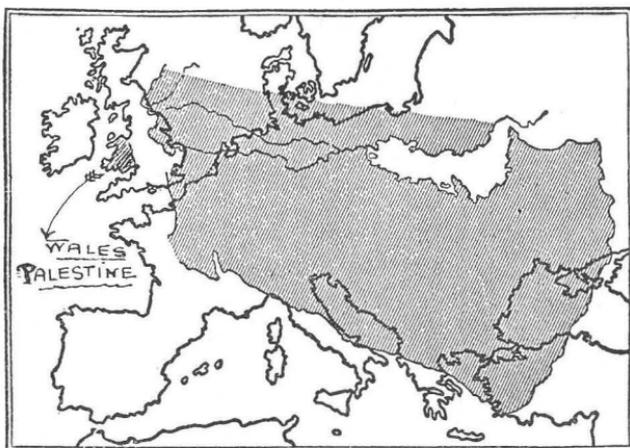


FIG. 5.—The comparative sizes of Europe and of Arabia.
The maps are shown to the same scale.

(estimated), and one of the most thinly populated countries on the globe (between 1 and 2 per sq. kil.).

Fig. 5 shows the actual size of Arabia as compared with Europe (from *Geography and World Power*). Notice that Wales is the same size as Palestine. In addition, the Arab population occupies large portions of North Africa, Mesopotamia and the Red Sea countries, also the coasts of the Persian Gulf. From the Nile to the Euphrates these sons of Ishmael have spread, and now they also demand the Land of the Israelites for themselves alone. (*Cp. Isa. xliii. 3.*)

For details of developments hitherto, reference is made to the *Transactions of the Victoria Institute* (1923), and we shall here merely attempt to illustrate graphically the great prophecies

of Ezekiel and Zechariah concerning the "living waters" that run under Jerusalem to the east, and which render the waters of the Dead Sea "wholesome," so that fish from the Mediterranean swarm there. The Mount of Olives is rent right across from east to west, and the living waters flow and there is "light towards eventide." (See fig. 6.)

As early as the middle of the last century, students of the

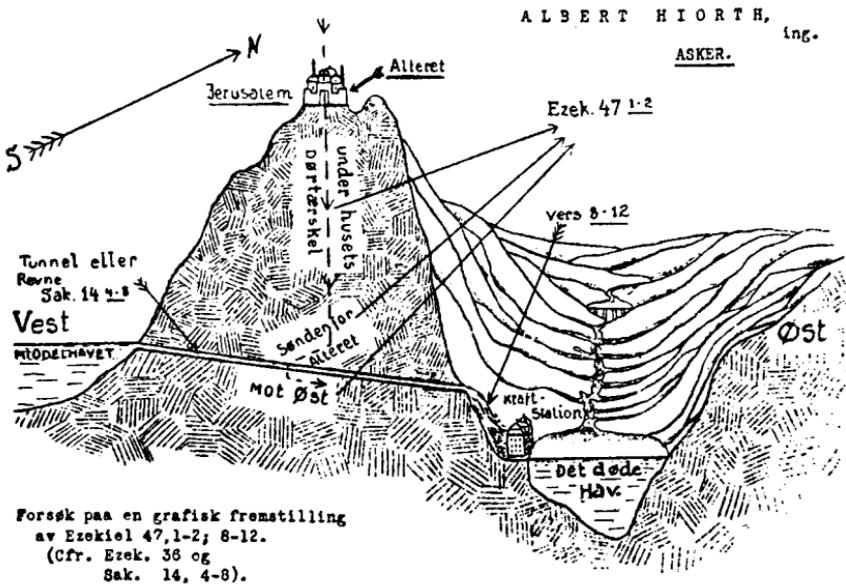


FIG. 6.—An attempt to sketch graphically the prophecy in Ezek. xlvii, 1-2, 8-11 and Zech xiv, 4-8.

prophets saw the truth regarding the return home of Israel and the partition of the country in the last days. One of the most interesting examples of interpretation of the prophets and of the segregation of Israel-Arabs (Arabs to the east) is probably that of Major J. Scott Phillipps in his remarkable paper read before the British Association at Aberdeen on September 16th, 1859. Fig. 7, being his map of Syria and Arabia, shows his exact biblical statement of the frontiers. Israel receives the heart of the Land of Promise, "the navel of the earth" (Ezekiel xxxviii), divided according to the twelve tribes, and Ishmael—the Arabs—eastward to the East Country,

which already Abraham saw, Genesis xxvi, 5. The east and south borders he indicates as the River Euphrates, the Persian Gulf, Lake Oman. (Ezekiel xlvi, 11, and Deut. ii, 24 (the Uttermost Sea), and the Sidon of our day, according to Genesis xlix, 13 (Phœnicia).) This, as will be seen later, will be a very important point in, it may be, a very near future.*

Even now, by the division of the country recommended by

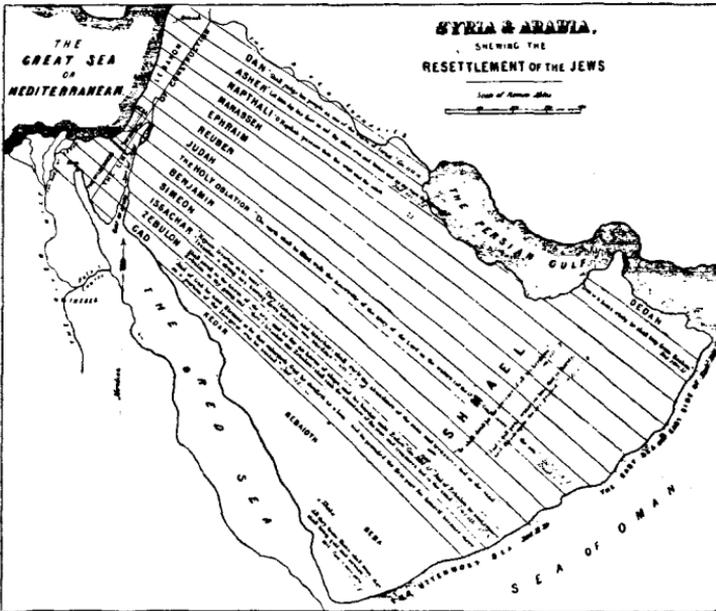


FIG. 7.—Division of the Promised Land according to Ezek. xlvii, by Major J. Scott Phillipps, Aberdeen, 1859.

the Palestine Commission, we see what may prove to be a commencement of the partition, the Arabs towards the east, an arrangement, however, which can scarcely be thought to be durable if it should ever come about.

The world will follow with great interest the partition of that country in the near future. Great, very great, things are imminent. At almost any moment the great, last cataclysm foretold in the Bible may have its beginning, and according

* Further information may be obtained on application.

to the Prophets that war will take the form of a race towards the "Central point of the earth," "Erez Israel," "Armageddon." In Baxter's *Forty Future Wonders*, and in Solovjev, *Antichrist*, an attempt is made to illustrate these events, the most important at the end of time, in the spirit of biblical prophecies.*

THE RIVER EUPHRATES plays a very important part in these prophecies regarding the land of Abraham's seed; it indicates, as it were, a people under certain conditions. (But it should be carefully noted that a new Babylon may also simultaneously arise in those regions under the sway of Antichrist himself.)

Mesopotamia and the Valley of the Euphrates were once the world's granary of ancient times, and much indicates that this country may again be a Garden of Eden when the words of the Bible concerning the land of Abraham's seed are fulfilled.

We must then foresee a reflowering of this country, now a region of mires and deserts, similar to that of Egypt and Palestine in former times.

In the course of my studies of these prophecies, the well-known Norwegian engineer, Joh. Støre, brought me his magnificent plan for the restoration of Mesopotamia. I will very briefly outline this plan, with the object of arousing the interest of the world in this gigantic idea, which, so far as I can see, would be a keystone in the fulfilment of the prophecies here dealt with. (I here discuss exclusively material fulfilment.) And precisely at a time when we might expect to be given a clear light in these matters there appears this mighty plan before the world.

All the plans have been submitted in confidence to the governments and ambassadors of England, Egypt, Turkey, Saudi-Arabia and Iraq.

Mr. Støre points out the unfortunate attempts that have been made in Mesopotamia to irrigate the country on the Egyptian model, with huge dams in the lowlands, in the swamp districts.

One of England's pioneers there told me that he had himself seen one of the dams collapsing and flooding the land instead of irrigating it. Støre here proposes, after the Norwegian pattern, a huge dam at the sources of the River Euphrates high up in the Turkish Alps at Ararat and Lake Van, near the Black Sea. (Fig. 9.)

* As to the future condition of the country see Isa. xi, 15, 16, xxx, 25, xxxv, 1, 6-8, xli, 1, 18-20, xliii, 1-6, 16, 19, 20, xliv, 3-5. Psa. cvii, 33-38.

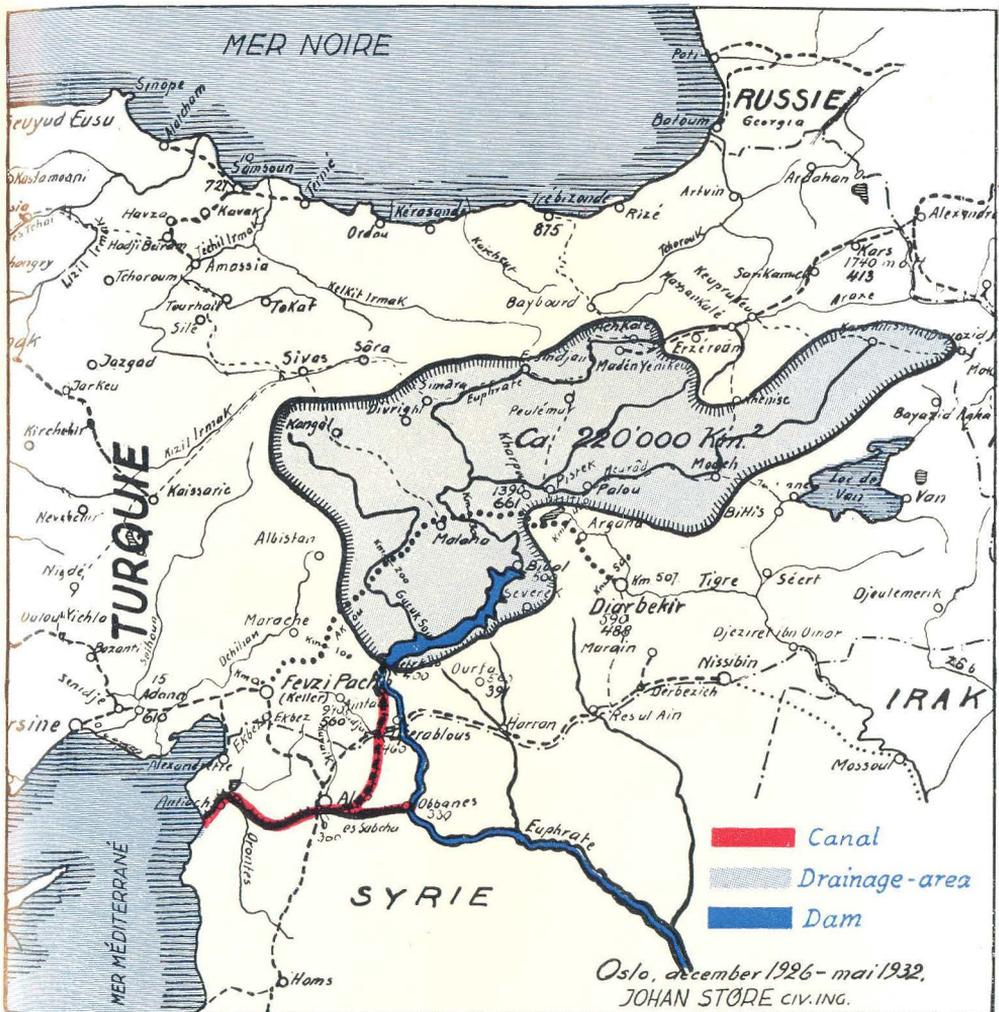


FIG. 9.

From Kefr-Kab to Bibol the whole valley is to be converted into a vast lake by means of a huge dam which will retain the enormous precipitation from a snow district the size of southern Norway, a dam several times the size of that at Assuan and with a capacity of several thousand million cubic metres of water.

From this huge dam the whole Valley of the Euphrates down to the Persian Gulf is to be canalised and irrigated (as described for Egypt in *Transactions of the Victoria Institute*, 1923).

The illustrations show the snow districts of Alpine Turkey in winter garb, very like the Norwegian highlands. They were taken by Norwegian and Danish engineers now building railways in the Near East.

It is estimated that at the large dam there will be water sufficient to provide as much as two million h.p., which Turkey will have for distribution in its own territory and in the new Mesopotamia, which will by degrees be irrigated, and where millions upon millions can settle in favourable conditions and on a fruitful soil for both horticulture and farming. There would eventually arise enormous traffic from the port of Basra eastward to India and westward round the coast of Arabia, via Aden and the Suez to the Mediterranean, a distance almost as great as that from Norway to New York.

We here have Störe's brilliant idea for shortening the latter by "the new America's" new Panama Canal, from Obbanes at the most westerly point of the Euphrates via Aleppo to the Mediterranean at the River Orontes, and Antioch.

As mentioned above, the plan can here only be indicated in outline, with the object of awakening the world's interest in its possible execution. Störe points out the extremely great difficulties (of which the political are perhaps not the least) which have to be overcome, technical, financial and juridical; three countries will be equally interested in a world undertaking of this kind.

The map is taken from the Turkish general staff maps—of about the same degree of accuracy as our Norse "county maps"—and the canal would have to be carried through relatively difficult country for a distance of about 140 miles, and to a height of more than 300 metres above sea level. An ample supply of water can be obtained for the sluices by a separate canal from the great dam to near Aleppo. But modern elevating plant has enormous advantages over sluicing, the largest in

existence being the Niederfinow Hebewerke (German) where lighters 40 metres long are lifted in a trough of water (which is 85 metres long and 12 broad and weighs 4,300 tons) 36 metres from the level of one of the rivers to that of the higher one.

These elevators operate with extremely little consumption of water and about six times as fast as a lock (sluice) with very little consumption of power. The Niederfinow plant can transport 5,000,000 tons per annum and at a cost (according to the nature of the goods) of from 5 øre (less than 1*d.*) per ton for sand or gravel-like material. About 300 h.p. is the capacity of the machinery.

Störe estimates a length of canal equal to thrice that of the Panama and a maximum elevation height of about 360 metres. According to the approximate estimates published, the Panama cost about £50,000,000 sterling, and between 30,000 and 40,000 men were employed for about nine years. Huge ocean liners can pass through this canal, whilst the Trans-Syrian Canal is intended to carry only large lighters and steamers of a corresponding size (about the same as in Niederfinow). The dimensions and equipment of the new canal will therefore be correspondingly cheaper. Modern methods of work and very cheap labour may here be taken into account, but the corresponding estimates still show a total that would amount to about that of the Panama Canal.

As indicated above, the present project has been prepared with the object of arousing the world's interest in the whole question of uniting the East and the West and the restoration of the cradle of our culture and the ancient granary of the world. In the meantime, efforts are being made to raise the capital for the preparatory or "spade work."

To-day we have here a magazine of explosives that may be ignited by a spark, and nobody knows how far the effects of such a violent explosion may reach.

And great, even enormous, upheavals are imminent in the material as well as the spiritual world; if only the latter could come first, the former could be modified to a very high degree. It may be that we here have the chief importance of the Prophets. It seems to me that Nineveh's story shows this. (Read Jeremiah xviii, 7-10.)

Moreover, before the exodus of God's chosen people from Egypt, it was necessary for the plagues to visit that land. To-day the cry is again heard over the "Egypt" of our world

to the hosts of the homeless nations, "Let my people go," whilst the foot and mouth disease—the cattle plague—spreads over Europe as never before, and we stand helpless in spite of the alleged progress of medicine.*

Would that the world to-day would listen to the thunder of hoofs from the horses of war and pestilence, of which we read in Revelation, chapter vi, and gaze at the gathering of "Kings from the East" (chapter xvi) when the "River Euphrates was dried up"† and "the dragon" (note Japan's "Black Dragon" which stands behind her warriors) sows his seed.

In an article in the daily paper *Cross and Crescent* we read: "The enemy to be vanquished is the same for all these people, it is the Evangelical Christian and the Chosen People of God, and the Jews—the former now concentrated in the north-west corner of Europe,‡ the people who build on the Bible, oppressed in the east by bolshevism and now in the south by the "cross and crescent" combined, overwhelming Asiatic hordes against the "congregation."

The coming barbarians will thus meet no Varus in the Teutoburg Forest; the Catalanian fields lie open to these Huns of Attila; these Saracens fear no Poitiers. The new Charles Martel may himself bear on his own shield—the cross and the crescent—how like the hammer and sickle.§

When the human flood of the East again bursts over its banks, when some day Britannia's guardians of the "sluices" of the Khyber Pass are no more, then a new Jhengis Khan may burst the dykes, for then "all that remains is swept away" (2 Thes. ii, 7) by the "flood" of the new Deluge (Dan. ix, 26) from the mighty hosts of the East.

At Noah's flood the Ark was saved; in the New Flood (Rev. xii, 15 and 17), only Jesus Christ and Evangelical Christianity will save us. Let us but follow Him and we are secure. (The same elements that destroyed the world and creation lifted the Ark up and above decay.)

Christians, look at these events in the East to-day. Do not these open possibilities for the coming Armageddon "all

* In Deuteronomy xxviii, both the evil and the remedy are to be found.

† The peoples of Turkey and the Near East?

‡ *Cp.* Jer. xxxi, 8-10. I shall be pleased to give further details on request.
A. H.

§ Mussolini is proclaimed in Lybia this year as "The Mohammedans' Protector." (Read Baxter, *Forty Future Wonders.*) He was given the "words of Islam" (*cp.* Rev. vi, 4 and see *Trans. Vic. Inst.* 1930).

fighting against all," which draws near? Those who have studied the prophecies in the Scriptures have long expected this—the incredible, the inconceivable, namely, the unity of Cross and Crescent. Christians, read the sign of the times! It may be this is the prologue to the last act of the drama of the world's history.

The collective plan set forth above, based on the spiritual science of the Bible (the Prophets), would bring several advantages to the people and regions concerned, cultural, social, economical and political.

1. *Egypt*, whose 14,000,000 poor fellaheens must now have resort to dried camel dung as fuel and who rarely have a proper light in their "homes," would obtain 300,000 h.p. for light, heat and energy.

An electric incandescent lamp and a little hot-plate in every "home" would signify an enormous advance in culture for these people, an advance that can scarcely be over-rated.

And power at a price that would amount to only a fraction of what we now have to pay in Oslo.*

2. *Turkey*, by the erection of the great dam, would obtain the control of anything up to 2,000,000 h.p.

A valuable addition to Turkey's state revenues, well worth including in the budget for the great plans for modernising that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk Pasha is now carrying out.

3. *Syria*, which is now expecting to follow Irak and Egypt at an early date as sovereign state (kingdom), will have the "new Panama" which would be a new water communication between the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. A small due per ton and the income from labour on these giant works and the traffic which thereby will result are well worth taking into consideration for a newly-established state like this. For a number of years onwards the revenues from the actual work on the canal will give an annual income of millions, and tens of thousands of unemployed will obtain work, and later on opportunities of procuring land—good land—and homes in the new Mesopotamia.

4. *The World* would find a solution of one of the most burning problems of to-day, Arab versus Jew in Palestine.

* A description of the work may be obtained from A. H. Cp. *Tek. Ukeb.*, No. 8, separate print.

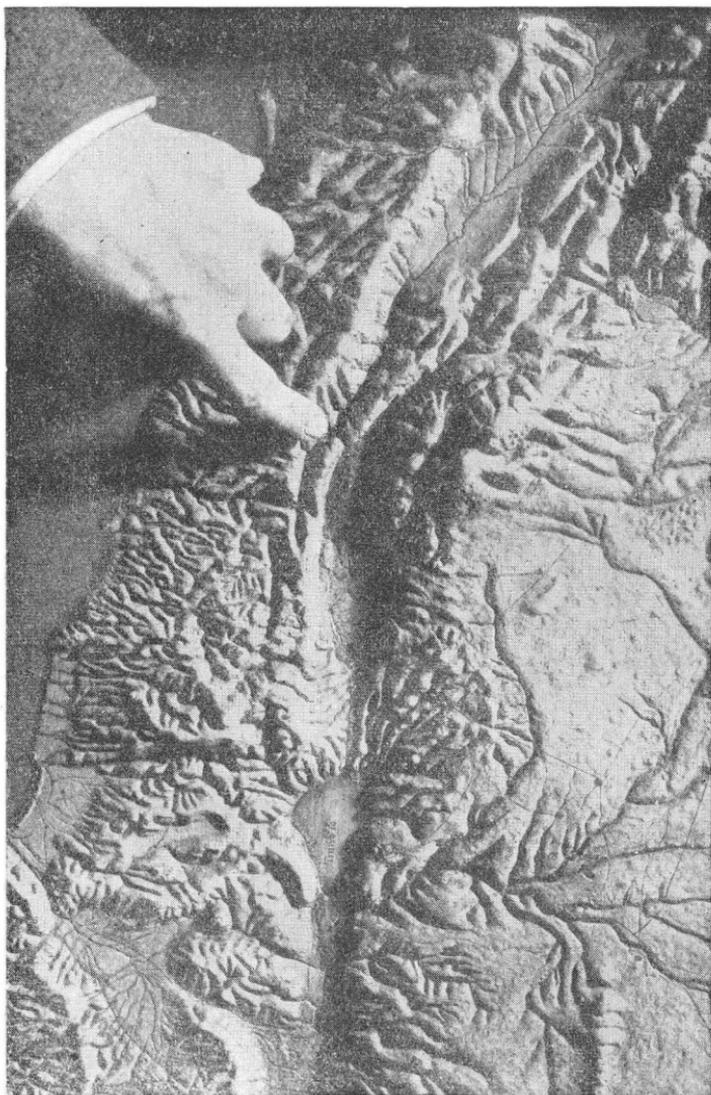


FIG. 8.—A. Hiorth's plan for turning the useless floods of the Litanie River through a small tunnel into the Jordan Valley. The dam (see finger-point) and the tunnel. The whole scheme, to be paid for by the power generated, easily 5 to 10,000 h.p.

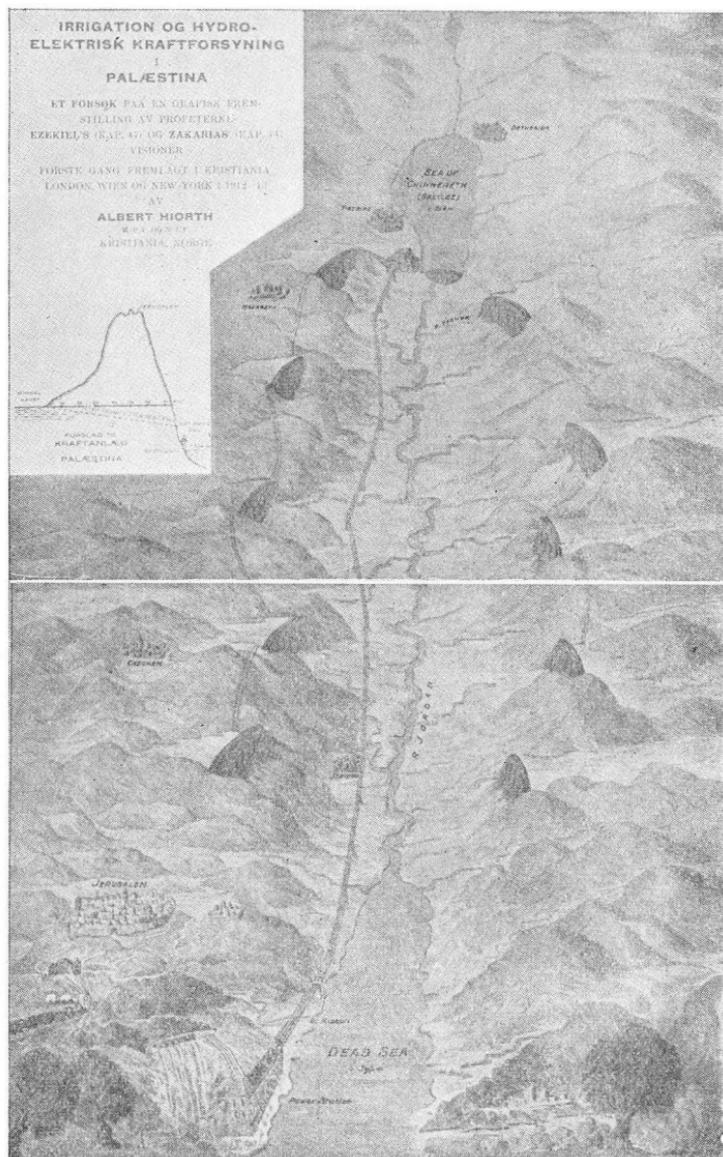


FIG. 10.—Proposed irrigation of Jordan Valley.

5. All those interested could there obtain more than enough land, and it would no longer be necessary to dispute over the crags of Palestine, a country the size of the county of Hedemark. Further, the world would obtain a new means of communication, a waterway parallel with the air routes from east to west, considerably shorter than the ships' route via Suez.

6. The World's Homeless will be given a chance, skilled unemployed will obtain work, the Jews of Poland and Germany, the outlaws and refugees of the Nansen Bureau, can be apprenticed to remunerative work, a worthy task even for the League of Nations.

"*But the expense*" will be the cry of all those interested, and with justification. "Imagine, perhaps £200 million." The fact is the entire plan would cost no more than that which is voted in one instalment for Japan's war against China.

Consider the advantages (and not only the purely material, immediate advantages) of such a plan. The whole world would benefit by its materialisation: first and foremost, all the millions of the Arabian world (estimated at 100,000,000); the seafaring nations by the shortened waterway, the interest of all in sheltering the world's most unfortunate (the scum of Europe), Arabs, Jews, Englishmen and all other most interested nations' social credit could be mobilised, a credit foundation being the immense wealth of the Dead Sea minerals, estimated by the Geological Committee at more than \$1,000,000,000,000.

By utilising quite a small fraction, a few per cent., of these minerals the whole of the plan sketched here might be realised. The store of potassium alone in the Dead Sea is estimated at a value of \$70,000,000,000.

The substitution of peace, well-being and happiness, first and foremost for some of the world's most unhappy people to-day, and for the tribe of Abraham in the Land of Promise of their forefathers and the "stranger in their midst," instead of brotherly strife, hunger and plague.

Truly a worthy task, even for a League of Nations to-day, and, if built on the foundation of the Bible, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*.

DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN (Lt.-Col. F. MOLONY) said : Mankind is benefiting enormously by irrigation schemes, so we are bound to give most careful consideration to the great project which Mr. Hiorth has outlined in the latter part of his able paper.

A great deal of the paper is occupied with the fulfilment of prophecy. Now we shall all be agreed that there are certain predictions which we ought to try to fulfil. For instance, our Saviour's saying "This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world." But Isaiah xli, 23, reads: "Declare the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods"; from this I gather that God has inspired some predictions in order that their fulfilment may testify to His divine wisdom. Now, if it come to be known that predictions have been fulfilled by men on purpose, their evidential value is largely gone. As we are a philosophic society we may well debate the question, what should Christians aim at? I submit that they should aim at the benefit of the human race, rather than at the fulfilment of prophecy.

Therefore we should consider a great project like this from a strictly practical point of view. It has three main items: the dam at Kefrkab in Turkish territory; the "New Panama" canal from the most westerly point on the Euphrates to the Mediterranean; and the canal connecting the two, and supplying water to the first canal. A map on the scale of 4 miles to the inch shows that the gorge at Kefrkab is very narrow and the site is apparently quite suitable for a big dam. This map gives aneroid levels at four places along the course of the Euphrates with which we are concerned. But if this reservoir is to stretch 120 miles to Bibol, the dam at Kefrkab must be 600 feet high. Now the highest dam constructed till the year 1921 was only 266 feet. The water at Kefrkab only needs to be 100 feet deep to supply the "New Panama" canal with water. A 200-foot dam would do this easily. Presumably the great extra height is planned so that the Kefrkab dam can irrigate the Euphrates valley and supply power for making electricity, and act as a great storage reservoir for use in dry seasons. A dam 600 feet high is an alarming proposition, but not unprecedented, because a dam has been made at Black Canyon on the Colorado river which raises the water 584 feet and forms a lake 115 miles long.

It cost £33,000,000. The site was peculiarly favourable at Black Canyon, because the breadth of the dam is scarcely more than twice its height, so the dam is curved on plan.

If we take the average depth of the great reservoir as 150 feet, the extent of the catchment area as 45 times that of the reservoir and the rainfall over it as 20 inches per annum, then the reservoir would take two years to fill, or three, if we allow for evaporation.

Imagine this whole scheme in working order. Hundreds of square miles in Iraq successfully irrigated. Long canals, irrigation cuts, drains, roads, farms, villages all in use, and the "New Panama" canal carrying a lot of produce to the Mediterranean. Then suppose that the Turks first empty the Kefrkab reservoir, and then shut the sluices and keep them shut! They could inflict a 3-year drought upon the irrigated land of Iraq. Oh, but you say, "then the Turks would lose their electric power." Yes, but it is possible to find substitutes for electricity used for lighting and power purposes, but there is no substitute for water. In view of these facts will not Iraq say, "We prefer to have the reservoir in our own territory on the Tigris."

So the scheme seems to me to have no prospect of success until the whole Euphrates is under one Government. Even if this came about, I still could not advise anybody to invest money in this, for does not experience show that very great companies often have to be reconstructed several times before they begin to pay?

As chairman, I am very sorry not to be able to endorse this most interesting project. I think that it is generous of Mr. Hiorth to press his friend's project, while allowing his own projects for Palestine (which he laid before us in 1923) to fall into the background. But I think he would be fully justified in reversing his policy by pushing his own projects and dropping those of his friend. We thank him most cordially for bringing this most interesting plan to our notice.

Rev. ARTHUR W. PAYNE warmly thanked Mr. A. Hiorth for his paper, and especially the lantern illustrations on the topic "From the River of Egypt unto the Great River, the River of Euphrates." Whatever might be the effect of the dam suggested by Mr. J. Stone, there was already some work of importance of that nature in Iraq.

When in 1938 the speaker took the 600 mile journey from Damascus to Bagdad in the Nairn Safety car he crossed the Euphrates and the Tigris and saw the remarkable barrage of the former river. That something more was necessary to be done was experienced on the home journey back from Mesopotamia to Palestine for the Euphrates was in flood and suddenly within a few hours a lake 60 miles round had been formed, and it was necessary to travel 60 miles farther to get home to Damascus.

The pictures of the snow regions shown by the lecturer reminded one of the fact that it is largely the melting of the snow of Ararat (on which Noah's ark rested) that chiefly causes the supply of water for the two great rivers of Mesopotamia, viz., the Euphrates and the Tigris.

With regard to the question of the irrigation and illumination of Palestine, there are three Jordan power houses arranged for, two below the Sea of Galilee, the third more north, near the Waters of Merom.

There are also substation power houses at Haifa and Tel-aviv established and in use. When the Rutenberg Scheme was being installed the Arabs said that the posts in Jaffa would serve usefully on which to hang the Jews, but when they saw the benefit they were enjoying in Tel-aviv they soon were glad to take advantage of this power and lighting system themselves.

One remembered also when Sir Herbert (now Lord Samuel) came to Jerusalem as first High Commissioner the Arabs said: "He won't be alive in 10 days," "Shoot him." "Shoot him." However, he stayed for his full five years, and at his departure from the Holy Land came at the season of *Hanuka* (Feast of Lights or Dedication, about our Christmas time) to Haifa and switched on the electricity, and it was indeed a delightful scene to see all the varied coloured twinkling lamps for the first time shining out over that now great city and harbour.

One was, however, specially glad to Mr. Hiorth for his reference to the spiritual needs of supply of power illumination, and one realises that real and lasting blessing can only come for Palestine, the Near East, and the world from that stream which flows clear as crystal from the Throne of God and of the Lamb, from God our Creator and God our Redeemer.

Mr. H. W. BRYNING said: The paper read by Mr. Hiorth is very interesting in its possibilities, but I cannot see that it provides a solution to the more pressing problem which confronts the British Government in the administration of Palestine.

I refer to the Arab-Jew problem, which is no new thing. For these claimants to the whole of Palestine know very well that this land is the heritage of the twelve tribes of Israel. However, the world has been tutored to believe that the Jews represent the "Israel of God" in Palestine to-day, and that the other tribes were cast away by God as rebels, whereas the reverse is the case as any Bible student knows.

These facts are basic to an understanding of the Arab-Israel problem which is clearly misunderstood by both the parties to the struggle, as neither realise that Great Britain stands to-day in the place of the dispossessed house of Judah, by Divine right, not by right of conquest, being the nation to whom Jesus Christ referred in Matt. xxi, 43, and by whom Jerusalem was rescued from Gentile dominion.

It has been argued that the British are Gentiles, but those who have said so do not realise that the Jews are now to be classed as Gentiles since their rejection of the Lord's anointed, whom their ancestors crucified. The expression "Jews and Gentiles" is therefore now changed to *Christians and Gentiles*.

The Arabs are well aware of the significance of the fall of Jerusalem during the Great War, and would most probably have accepted the position as British subjects but for the unfortunate and embarrassing Balfour Declaration, which, by the way, was only intended to provide a home for persecuted Jews. Regarding the Jews, who are of the Tribe of Judah, refer Jeremiah iii, 11, and xix, 1-11. Also Matt. xxi, 43 and Luke xxi, 24.

I may close with the remark that the lecturer's reference to Isaiah xix, 23, 24 may be taken to refer to the state in Palestine, Egypt and Assyria after the "time of the end" as the reference is to that Great Day of the Lord. This is very obvious from the phrase "*in that day*" which also occurs in Isaiah ii, 11, "and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day."

AUTHOR'S REPLY.

I beg to thank the hon. members who have so kindly given their valued opinions in this—to me—most enlightening discussion.

Our hon. chairman, Lieut.-Col. Molony, kindly refers to Isaiah xli, 23, a passage that I cannot take to refer to Christians.

In my lecture, page 138, I referred to this chapter, verses 18-20, running thus :—

“ ‘ I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of valleys—I will make the wilderness a pool of water and dry land springs of water ’ . . . all this is done ‘ by the Hand of the Lord ’ . . . but He uses His human servants to perform the manual work : ‘ for I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand . . . I will help thee . . . behold I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument, having teeth, thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff—Thou shalt fan them and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them ’ ” (vs. 15-16).

Could the modern stone-cutting tools and rock-blasting devices have been more accurately foretold, literally ?

* * * * *

Having thus understood these Biblical prophecies for our day, I could not help putting the schemes before the world (even if a debate in our Philosophical Society should decide that thereby the evidential value of the said prophecies be gone), and I do believe even hereby to “ aim at the benefit of the human race ” (*not rather than*, but) *building upon* the fulfilment of prophecy : “ Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.”

* * * * *

I cannot enter upon a discussion on a 600-foot Bibol dam as I have no data to work upon. Mr. Store proposes a dam 120 metres high only.

* * * * *

I quite agree that a super-government (Turkey, Syria, Iraq) should be in force—fundamentally different from those now in force. I pointed to “ the day ” when “ Israel shall be the third with Egypt and with Assyria—even blessing in the midst of the

land—whom the Lord of Hosts shall bless, saying: blessed be Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My Hands, and Israel, Mine inheritance ” (Isa. xix, 23–25).

* * * * *

As to finance, I may say that I never for a moment thought of—or wished—this plan to be floated on the lines of the “ big companies ” now in vogue ; on the contrary, I tried to point out a new way, viz., to mobilise the social credit of all the nations concerned, and mentioned the pooled interests of all the countries of Isa. xix, 23–25, with re-united Israel* as the centre of gravity and the pivot of the Scapa-Flow-Singapore axis ; from hence the accumulated blessings of the everlasting covenants of God will go forth, extending even to the genuine League of Nations, the Commonwealth of Theocratic Nations, finally embracing the whole world (Gen. xii, 3 ; Psalm xxv, 13 ; lxvi, 1–4 ; lxxxiii, 4–8 (now) and 18 ; Matt. v, 5, and Micah 4).

The wise promulgators of the Statute of Westminster seem to have been providing for this—the Scriptural—issue.

Of course, Mr. Bryning is right in distinguishing so clearly between the two separate peoples (“ Jews ” and so-called “ Ten-Tribe Israel ”), a fact that I tried to emphasise in the early part of the lecture, also that the re-united twelve tribes are finally to possess the whole promised land (Gen. xv, 18) and according to the partition-document in Ezech. xlvii, 3.

Major Scott-Phillipps’s diagram, from his Aberdeen lecture in 1859, was shown on the slide, and as to the Arabs, the Bible passages of Gen. xvi, 12 and 25, 6 were quoted, the area located “ eastward to the east ” (Kedem).

Personally I believe to see Ezech. xxxvii being fulfilled to-day (especially after 1897, Basle Conference of Zionists). The “ Jews ” get their national home in the smaller demesne of the great promised land (“ Erez Israel ”) together with prototypical “ Joseph,” wielding the mandatory rights ceded by 56 nations—flying the Union Jack (Union of Jacob’s sons) over Jerusalem (Ezech. xxxvii, 13, 16, 17 and 19–22).

In the near future the verses 10 and 24–28 should be closely watched in the light of current events by ALL CHRISTIANS wishing

* Representatively, Jer. 3, 14–18 a “ seventh Dominion.”

to serve the persecuted Jewish brethren, who gave us the fundamentals of our civilisation: our Bible and our Saviour Jesus The Christ (Gen. xii, 3, the blessing).

I wish to express my warm thanks to the Rev. A. Payne for the interesting personal observances in the lands of Iran and Iraq, but more especially for his sublime SPIRITUAL views of the passages I have treated materially-technically only.