

## **JEWISH OPINION.**

### **Rabbi Freedman's Statement.**

**The fighting between Arabs and Jews, Rabbi D. I. Freedman said yesterday, was the outcome of the opposition of the Arabs to the policy of the League of**

**Nations to develop Palestine so that it would ultimately become the Jewish homeland.**

**Rabbi Freedman said that the riots at the Wailing Wall were only an incident in the whole trend of events. The Arabs regarded Palestine as their country. The Balfour declaration of November 2, 1917, announced the intention of the British Government to establish in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people. It was a short-sighted policy on the part of the Arabs to oppose the declaration as the development of the country ensured their progress. Before the declaration Palestine was a very poor country, but since that time millions of pounds had been expended by Jews both privately and through the World Zionist Organisation in its development. At first the position of the Arabs was very strong but during the past few years they had weakened, and in many parts of Palestine the relationships between the two races were quite friendly. Riots in Jerusalem and Jaffa about six years ago were the outcome of bad feeling between the Arabs and Jews. Business competition and religious differences were**

competition and religious differences were in a measure responsible for these riots. The Moslems in matters of religion were not intolerant but they earnestly desired to upset the political position, and they were determined to prevent Palestine becoming the homeland of the Jews.

Referring to the message sent by the Chief Rabbi in Palestine (Doctor Kook) to the Chief Rabbi of England (Dr. Herz) that Jewry was in grave danger, Rabbi Freedman said that the significance of Doctor Kook's message would be more readily understood when it was realised that there were between 700,000 and 800,000 Arabs in Palestine and 150,000 Jews. Certain Arab chiefs lost no opportunity of stirring up the Bedouins and Fellaheens against the Jews, and these men were obviously behind the latest riots. Colonel Wedgewood, M.P., advocated in his book "The Seventh Dominion," that Palestine should become the seventh dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations. He stated both in the House of Commons, as recently as a year ago, and in his book, that in many respects the British officials in Palestine had discriminated unfavourably to the Jews and had given encouragement to the Arabs in their opposition to the fulfilment of the Balfour declaration. "I deplore the present disturbances," declared the Rabbi, "and I hope no effort will be spared by the Government to prevent a recurrence."

### **A Soldier's Experience.**

Sidelights on the disturbances in Pales-

Sidelights on the disturbances in Palestine were given yesterday, by Colonel E. L. Margolin, who lived in Palestine as a youth and also served there towards the end of the great war. Colonel Margolin, went to the war in 1914 with the 16th Battalion and served for 2½ years until he was disabled. When he recovered he was appointed to the command of the Jewish Battalion in London and went with his men to Palestine in 1918. On the conclusion of the war, Colonel Margolin was retained by the British Government for the formation of a Palestine defence force. That defence force, he said, was composed of Jews and Arabs. He was made commander of the Jewish section and General Costello, V.C., a very fine officer of the Indian army, commanded the Arabs. Sir Herbert Samuel was then High Commissioner in Palestine. In April, 1921, just before Sir Herbert's appointment, riots took place in Jerusalem. At that time the military administration and the general administration in Palestine were working in opposition to the Balfour declaration, both openly and subversively. This encouraged the Arabs. At that time, General Sir John Shea was in command of the military forces and he empowered Colonel Margolin to prepare a scheme of defence for the outlying towns and surrounding country, with the result that no riots occurred outside Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, General Shea had no jurisdiction. Government was in the hands of the Governor of Jerusalem, Mr. (now Sir) Ronald Storrs. In Jerusalem, the first

GOVERNOR OF JERUSALEM, SIR. (HOW SIR)  
Ronald Storrs. In Jerusalem, the first riots continued for three days without stopping. In the following month, May, 1921, a second series of riots occurred. Sir Herbert Samuel retained Colonel Margolin to form a force, but the steps that the administration had taken for stopping the riots, convinced the colonel that the force to be formed would be a menace to Jewish feeling in Palestine, and he resigned. The force was not formed.

### **British Administration Blamed.**

"My opinion," continued Colonel Margolin, "is that from the very inception of British administration in Palestine there was antagonism in ruling circles against the Balfour declaration. This declaration was made by Mr. Balfour before the United States entered into the war and was made in my opinion, more or less to influence American opinion, as the Jewish population, which carries a fair amount of weight in the United States, was siding with the Allies. In Palestine, there was a certain clique of British, composed mostly of the military and civil servants, who worked against the Balfour declaration and tolerated all sorts of propaganda against it among the Arabs. This led up to the issue of a white paper by Mr. Winston Churchill, in which Britain actually denied the terms of the Balfour declaration. All this imbued the Arabs with the idea that the British Government was weak and could not carry out the declaration. The British Government could not altogether overlook the declaration and therefore

**British Government could not altogether overlook the declaration and therefore kept on playing with the Zionists. The Arabs began to grow more restive and the result is this last riot.**

**“Personally, I anticipated it sooner or later,” continued Colonel Margolin. “There is no such thing as religious hatred or even racial hatred between the Arabs and the Jews living in Palestine. It is simply the political feeling which has been fostered by a certain class in the British administration on the spot and by the Effendi, or landlord and merchant class of the Arabs.**

**“There is the instance of the Wailing Wall,” the speaker added. “That is a most sacred place where the Jews pray and perform their religious rites. Under British administration the police go through the place on the Day of Atonement and do sacrilegious deeds. What influence would the sight of such deeds have on the Arab peasants who are not educated or cultured? The riots of to-day are the harvest of the seed that has been sown for several years past.”**

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