

PALESTINE.

Zionist Movement Defended

Seeking to correct what he described as a false impression, Colonel E. L. Margolin, D.S.O., referred on Friday to the remarks made about Palestine by Major C. Parsonage, M.C., in the course of an interview with a "West Australian" reporter on the previous day. Colonel Margolin left Australia with the 16th Battalion and later took command of the 38th and 39th Royal Fusiliers' Jewish Regiment of the Imperial Army, in Palestine.

Colonel Margolin said that he could not allow Major Parsonage's remarks to pass without comment, adding that he himself had some knowledge of people and conditions in Palestine, as he had served three and a half of his seven years' war service there and had been closely associated with the administration during that time. He had also spent nine years in Palestine before coming to Western Australia.

The Zionist idea, said Colonel Margolin, had been endorsed by the British Government and he hoped it would succeed in spite of all opposition. It was true that the British, or rather the Palestine administration, had failed to inspire confidence in the Jews or Arabs, but this was because it had stopped at half measures. In November of 1917 the British Government issued a declaration that Palestine was to become a national home for the Jews. It was the duty of the administration to carry out that policy. However, the first administration, a

administration to carry out that policy. However, the first administration, a military one, was, if anything, hostile to the British Government's policy, and the present administration, a civil one, had not the necessary spirit to enforce it. Had the British Government's orders been obeyed firmly and justly, there would have been no trouble among any race or sect whatever.

Referring to the remarks which Major Parsonage had quoted from Lord Northcliffe's speech, Colonel Margolin said that he feared that there must have been a misprint, as it was quite a mistake to describe Polish Jews, German Jews, Austrian Jews, and Russian Jews as different races. The Jews were one race. Living in different countries might have altered their nationality, but it had not altered their race. It was, therefore, wrong to say that they could not combine, the more so as they had a common ideal. Difference there might be between the religious and the free sections, but in the main ideal they were united. Some might be active and some might be passive in the work for that ideal, but all agreed in the main.

"What I saw in Palestine during my three and a half years' service there," continued Colonel Margolin, "proved to me that most of the unfavourable allegations have no foundation. Major Parsonage condemns the type of Jew emigrating to Palestine, but I hold that the standard is a very high one. My view is supported by the opinions of many distinguished soldiers and men of high standing in the literary and commercial worlds. I may also depend on most Australians who served in Palestine for support. Almost without exception Jews emigrating to Palestine are very

support. Almost without exception Jews emigrating to Palestine are very intellectual, cultured and hard-working, and their settlements are the only bright spots in Palestine. If the British do not carry much favour in Palestine it is the fault of the administration."
