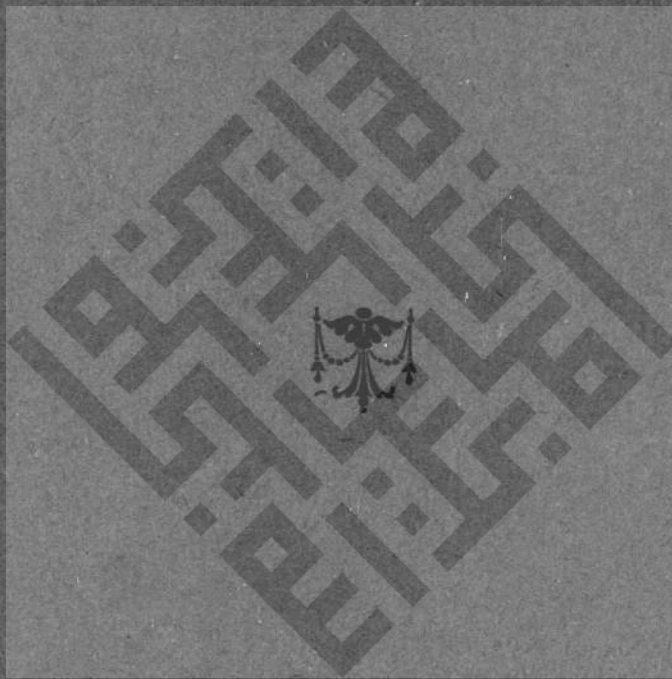
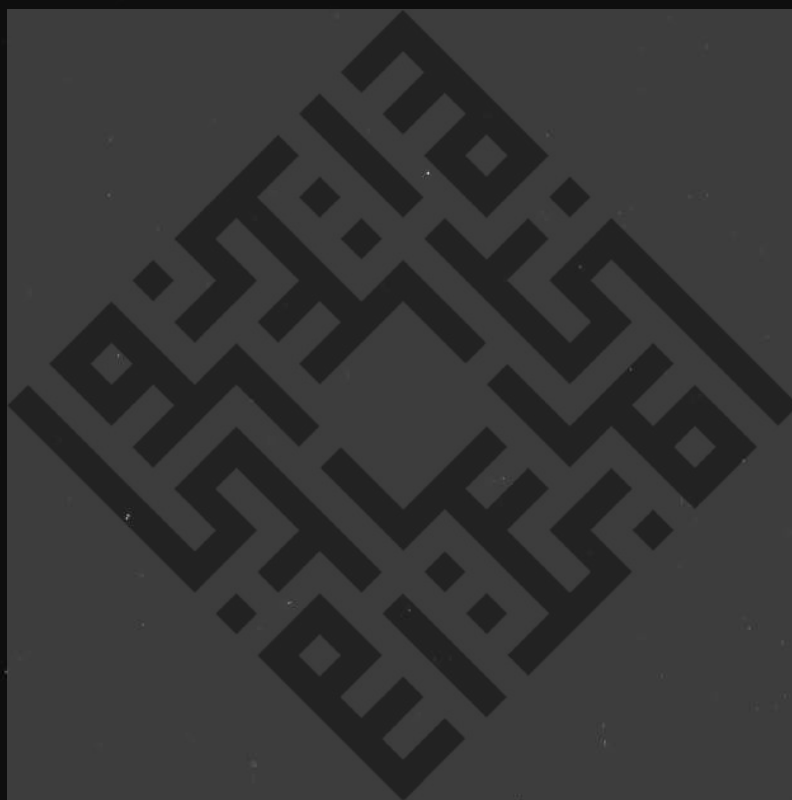


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# THE SYRIAN WORLD



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SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL, *Editor.*

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# THE SYRIAN WORLD

VOL. II. No. 9.

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## Gods, Jinn and a Hall of Fame

*A Study in the Traditions of the Arabs and Their Mythology*

By AMEEN RIHANI

THE MYTHOLOGY of pre-Islamic Arabia is in keeping with the temper of its soil, the history of its land, and the romantic spirit of its people. The invisible world, described in the Arabian Nights, is reflected in the visible forces of nature, which, to a desert dweller, are as real in their supernatural attributes as the weal and woe he experiences under them. The simoom is the smokeless fire of which the Jinn are born; the columns of sand, rising and whirling in the shimmering spaces, are the ghosts of Afrits and Ghouls; the mirage is the sardonic laugh of Iblis; the oasis is the verdant and bounteous hand of some otherwise invisible deity; the well or spring in the trackless waste flows direct from the streams of Paradise; a necropolis, fancied to have been once the city of a mighty tribe, is transformed into a habitation of evil giants; the subterranean channels found in Al-Yaman, which were constructed by one of the extinct civilized nations of antiquity, are represented in Arabic lore as the underground ways leading to the palace of one of the sovereigns of the Jinn.

Thus the mythology of pre-Islamic Arabia evolved. Every manifestation of nature had a tribe of spirits, the Jinn, behind it, animating it, urging it forth, giving it destructive or creative power. Whatever they could not fathom or explain was a token of the spirits or a guide-post to their land. In pagan times the Jinn were everywhere. A bedouin once found them

in his porridge and took a solemn oath never again to taste of liquid food. King Solomon, as we shall see, had a deal of trouble with them. Unlike Arab authors, however, I shall endeavor to maintain a little chronological order. Later then about King Solomon.

The gods of Arabia in the days of the Jinn were continually increasing in number; for over each tribe of spirits ruled a deity, who was not always on good terms with the kings of the land. They even fought for independence. Hence, the wars and the treaties of peace with them, which are recorded faithfully and solemnly by the Arab historian. Hence, too, the crowded condition of the Kaaba, which was a kind of divine hall of fame before the advent of the Prophet. For they were always adding to their idols, the Arabs, in self-defense or as a means of further protection; and when they could not conquer in battle a certain Jinn nation, they would get around its supreme ruler diplomatically and offer him a niche in their hall of fame. Every Arab tribe, in fact, aspired to a place in the Kaaba for its god or gods. But many of these, be it said to their credit, were excluded because they were either commonplace local deities or mere symbols of lust and plunder. Nevertheless, their votaries argued and fought for their recognition.

Nor does it seem that they were jealous of each other, these gods. There were no Jehovas or Allahs among them. More laudable than this divine tolerance, however, was the staunch fidelity of the Arabs themselves, who were always faithful to their alliances as well as to the gods of their allies. A delegation of one of the tribes once came to Mecca, walked into the Kaaba, and took its terra-cotta god away, because the god of their friendly neighbors was excluded. The Sheikh of another tribe was once asked what he worshipped. "A god made of dates dipped in sugar and honey," he replied; "and sometimes we eat him and make another." Strange that such a god was not more popular; for the Arab was given a sweet, a very sweet tooth, to compensate, I suppose, for his bitter tongue. He is as much at home in a pastry shop as in a quarrel. Although he loves his smoke, too, and his coffee. I do not remember having ever read of any one in the Divine Conclave of the Kaaba that included the famous herb and bean, or anything similar to them, in his scheme of eternal bliss.

But there still remains, in spite of Wahhabism, something

of the pagan in the Arab of to-day—the Arab of the desert who anticipates a good and generous host in Allah. For is he not a sort of Super-Sheikh with an inexhaustible supply of tobacco and coffee and sweetmeats? Of what worth his heaven, if he were not? It is the bedouin's boast that if he find no coffee and sweetmeats, at least, in heaven, when he gets there, he would leave it anon.

The pre-Islamic Arabs were avowedly pagan and often grossly material. One of their mighty kings was once warned by a prophet who preached the doctrine of monotheism, praised Allah the one and only god, in whose paradise flowed streams of milk and honey and wine. But the unrepenting and blaspheming Shaddad ibn 'Aad disdained the warnings of the prophet. Apparently, he was on good terms with the Jinn; for he summoned them to build for him a terrestrial paradise, which should surpass in magnificence and splendor any paradise to come. The Jinn obeyed; but Shaddad ibn 'Aad did not live to enjoy the enchanted fruits of their labor.

The invisible spirit-world was indeed as real, as palpable to the pagans of Arabia as the visible and material; for in their legendary history, as later in the Arabian Nights, many wars with the Jinn are chronicled,—the battles are graphically described. Gradually, half of them were conquered, and they fought with the Arabs as their allies against the other half. Hence, the good and the evil Jinn we meet with in legend and tale and creed—in the chronicles, in the Nights, and in the Koran. Hence, too, the great service they render to the mighty and wise of the sovereigns of the world. Sometimes they make a mistake, as in the case of King Shaddad, and regret it. But King Solomon, "our Lord Sulaiman", was the greatest and wisest of their masters. He was their patron and their friend. For him, the good Jinn, by the command of Allah, built the temples of Syria and the palaces of Al-Yaman. Following is the testimony of the Koran: (1)

*"And unto Solomon," (Allah is speaking to the Prophet Muhammad) "did we subject the wind, which travelled in the morning a month's journey, and a month's journey in the evening; and we caused a fountain of molten brass to flow for him. And of the Jinn*

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(1) Surat Saba (Chapter XXXIV). — Rodwell's Translation.



*were some who worked in his presence by the will of his Lord..... They made for him whatever he pleased of private chambers, and images, and dishes large as tanks, and cooking pots that stood firmly."*

The fountain of molten brass herein mentioned was built for King Solomon in the desert,—was carried there, in fact, by the Jinn. This is corroborated in the Muhammedan Traditions, or Commentaries of the Koran. The Jinn, say the Commentators, having transported the fountain to the desert beyond the city named Andalus (Andalusia)—their geographical knowledge is amazing—built there a great city twelve miles in length and twelve in breadth around the fountain. Later, one of the Khalifs of Damascus, who must have doubted the words of the corroborating witnesses or suspected them of exaggeration, sent one of his generals, Musa ibn Nusair, on an archæological expedition. Musa's report is recorded in the Arabian Nights. That city in the Sahara is called the City of Brass, and the Commentators did not misrepresent the truth or exaggerate it. Indeed, Musa returned to the Omayyad Khalif with material for a most thrilling story, as well as the material evidence of that enchanted land. He brought back with him a specimen of the bottled Jinn of King Solomon and mermaids which were preserved, he tells us, in wooden tanks.

This then is atmosphere and flavor of pre-Islamic Arabic mythology. It is difficult to see how it can be of either Persian or Indian origin, as some Orientalists maintain. That it is indigenous is, on the contrary, quite obvious. I have dwelled briefly on the subject, therefore, only to emphasize the fact that the mythology of The Nights is the very soul of illusion incarnate in the living agencies of nature,—of scenes and elements peculiar to the Peninsula. In it also, to the dreamer of the desert, the grandiose is as common as the sand and the infantile is as marvelous as the sun.

This attitude towards the miraculous and supernatural, vested as with Teutons in the anthropomorphic, ascribing to it human feelings and passions, is as strong to-day as it was in the past. For the Arabs, like the Celtic people, have always resisted, and are still to a certain extent resisting, their times; and even though they wear themselves out in the defense of desperate causes, they never yield absolutely to a superior power or understanding. They are, as a race, more assimilative than pliable.

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What they yield to the outside world is much less than what they take from it. Their own customs and traditions, for instance, were as binding wherever Arabic was spoken in the times of the Prophet as they were in Arabia proper. Even a native conqueror had to adopt the manners and assimilate to a certain extent the traditions of the conquered tribe.

Thus, when they resisted the Prophet Muhammad and finally surrendered to Al-Islam, they brought with them into the new creed something of their pagan mythology, which the Prophet had to accept. The maleficent and the beneficent Jinn were, therefore, designated as believers and unbelievers, that is half of them was converted to Al-Islam while the other half remained pagan. They themselves testify to this in the Koran, which devotes to the subject a whole Chapter entitled the Jinn. Says the Prophet:

*"It has been revealed to me that a company of the Jinn believed and said: 'Verily, we have heard a marvelous discourse (The Koran). It guideth to the truth; therefore, we believe it.'"*

The faithful Commentators, who have written a Sahara of books on the Koran and the Traditions (Sayings of the Prophet), must have had a subtle sense of humor or they deemed it their business to elucidate and instruct in an entertaining manner. The Prophet Muhammad, they assure us, met the Jinn in person, addressed them admonishingly, and offered them the alternative of either Al-Islam or eternal perdition. They also had a penchant for detail, the Commentators, and not a little appreciation of local color. They would seem, nevertheless, in this particular instance, accurate in their report; for they set down the time and place of that historical meeting. Those of the Jinn who hearkened not to the Prophet, who preferred in their perversity eternal damnation to a new religion, became enemies of those who accepted Al-Islam, and civil wars among them ensued. Some of these wars are recorded in Arab history, as I have remarked, and chronicled in The Book of a Thousand and One Nights. No spice of Arabia, no miracle of faith or romance could sweeten the bitter enmity that existed between the Jinn.

For they were not only human—they were Semitic. Their serenity in the face of danger, their impetuosity in moments of security, their ghoulish, unearthly passion, their magnanimity,



self-restraint and self-sacrifice, all the contrarieties of their nature are quite consistent with the flamboyant spirit of the Arabs, whose fancy, like their faith, is fed upon rhapsodies. The delicate beauty, the soft shadings which characterize the Celtic romances, for instance, are wanting in the climate of Arabia as in its Koran, its poetry, and its literature.

Every moment, whether under friendly or unfriendly influences, the Arab lives fully, intensely, religiously. For him, the elemental value of things is never lost. Everything essential to the daily task must necessarily mean life or death. Hence, the exaggerated vesture of his thoughts, the poetic magnifications of his soul, the humorous impossibilities of his vision. To a city dweller, what is a flower, what is a star, what is a cup of water? But to one who has often thirsted in the arid waste, who was often swept to the verge of the grave by the desert storm, the flower, in the sheer ecstasy of discovery, becomes a magnificent garden, the trickling brackish spring a flowing stream of crystal water, and the twinkling little star a radiant but friendly sun!

## *The Perfect Brother*

*Translation of DR. SALIM Y. ALKAZIN*

Once I had a brother in Allah, and what made him great in my eyes, was the smallness of the world in his eyes. He was beyond the tyranny of his desire, so much so that he did never covet that which was beyond his reach; and toward that which was within his reach he was never avaricious. He blamed no man, so that he would not have to find excuses if found in a like situation. He never complained of pain until he was cured. He did whatever he said, and said not what he would not do. He was never forced to keep silent, though he might be forced into speech. His eagerness to hear surpassed his desire to be heard. When confronted by two opposing motives, he sought to find which was akin to the lower passions, and that he shunned.

Seek ye these principles, and cling to them, and boast of them; and if ye should fail, know that to gain only the few is better than to lose all. — Ali.

## Development of Dairy Farming In Syria and Lebanon

By GEORGE KNAYSI

*Instructor of Bacteriology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

In a previous article I have discussed in a very general way the agricultural situation in Lebanon and Syria. I have shown that the troubles are, so to speak, physiological in nature and are due to the wrong functioning of the system as a whole. The treatment should be supervised by vigilant and competent men and should consist of educating the farmer in the best methods of soil management suitable to his conditions. Not until every thing is functioning well can we think of carrying out ambitious plans for further development of the country's resources. The present article is intended to call attention to a type of farming almost unknown in the East, but which seems to have great possibilities in the agricultural development of our country, namely dairy farming.

By dairy farming is meant those methods of soil management which aim principally at the production of food for dairy herds which in turn transform part of it into milk. Dairy farming, as I said, is almost unknown in our country where grain and fruit farming are the predominating types and where milk is produced as a side line in quantities hardly exceeding the needs of the farm. The milk producer, in our country, is not the farmer but mainly the shepherd with his numerous goats and sheep. The dairy cow is relegated into a minor position. But the country can sustain only a limited number of shepherds and that number will naturally decrease as the country is developed, and the major part of their goats and sheep will have to be fenced in what becomes virtually a dairy farm. I doubt, however, whether, inside of a fence, any of those romantic creatures can compete with the dairy cow in an essentially unromantic age, and, sooner or later, that animal will survive which will give the largest amount of milk with the least possible expenditure, and I believe that certain good breeds of dairy cows will ultimately win as milk producers.

I know, however, of no actual data to support or invalidate my statement, and a thorough study should be undertaken on an experimental basis. The goat may hold its own for certain purposes, for instance the production of milk for making certain types of native cheese, but on the whole, it can be hardly doubted that to develop in our country successful dairy sections requires the importation of efficient breeds of dairy cattle which should be fed scientific rations for their maximum production, and the elaboration of a scheme of soil management in which the native hay plants should be studied with respect to their food value and their effect on the soil, and, if necessary, new plants should be introduced. If then we find a steady outlet for the milk produced, nature, which is extremely generous with Syria and Lebanon, will furnish the rest, namely, good soil, cool climate and plenty of cold water, factors very important for a successful dairy farming. Of all the sections I have known in my various travels, the western slopes of the Anti-Lebanon and the beautiful plains of Al-Beqa', the Coëlesyria of the Greeks, will have my choice for the dairy farms of which I am dreaming and have dreamt for the last few years.

The necessary outlets for the milk produced may be many. Fluid milk consumption should be encouraged and the public should learn the advantages of milk in the diet especially when it can be safely used without boiling. Pasteurization plants will therefore have to be erected, with adequate means of refrigeration in storage and transportation. Beirut, Zahlé and various Lebanese towns could be easily supplied with a high-grade milk produced in that marvelous section for dairying which lies near Zahlé. The surplus milk could be easily absorbed by the various dairy industries for the manufacture of butter, condensed, evaporated and powdered milk, ice-cream, various cheeses, milk sugar, and finally casein which is now extensively used in various industries. I must not forget to mention also the various sour milk drinks including our national laban.

Thanks to the researches conducted in various countries during the last thirty years, the dairy industries are no more empirical. Every process has been investigated and many are now well understood. An example will make things somewhat clearer: Swiss cheese has always been manufactured in Switzerland. Nobody knew why a duplication of the process of manufacturing in the United States, for instance, did not yield any-



thing resembling the classical Swiss cheese, with its so-called "eyes" and its characteristic flavor. Switzerland, therefore, continued to supply the world with its much coveted cheese until the investigations of Dr. Y. M. Sherman, then at the United States Department of Agriculture and now head of the Department of Dairy Industry at Cornell University, showed that the "eyes" of Swiss cheese and its flavor are due to certain bacteria which live in the absence of air. Dr. Sherman was able to isolate those bacteria and to grow them in the laboratory. Excellent Swiss cheese is therefore made in the United States. All the American manufacturer has to do is to add the "eye" producing bacteria at a certain stage of the manufacturing process, and he is more certain of success than the Swiss manufacturer who is still using his old empirical methods. There is no end to similar examples.

If such industries could be developed in Syria and Lebanon, what a source of wealth our people would have.

Let us hope that men and the necessary investments will soon be available to make out of the country of our fathers the land that flows with milk and honey that it used to be.

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## *Said a Blade of Grass*

By G. K. GIBRAN

Said a blade of grass to an autumn leaf, "You make such a noise falling! You scatter all my winter dreams."

Said the leaf indignant, "Low-born and low-dwelling! Songless, peevish thing! You live not in the upper air and you cannot tell the sound of singing."

Then the autumn leaf lay down upon the earth and slept. And when spring came she waked again..... and she was a blade of grass.

And when it was autumn and her winter sleep was upon her, and above her through all the air the leaves were falling, she muttered to herself, "O these autumn leaves! They make such a noise! They scatter all my winter dreams."

## Recent Developments in Palestine

*(Based on Reports from American Consul Oscar Heizer, Jerusalem, and Commercial Attaché James F. Hodgson, Cairo, and Published in Commerce Reports of Feb. 20, 1928.)*

Although under a different mandate, Palestine, nevertheless, constitutes an integral part of Syria, bound to it by race, language and traditions. The problems of the part, therefore, are the problems of the whole, and in reprinting the following account of conditions in Palestine by the Department of Commerce we are acting on our policy of giving accurate and complete information on all subject of interest affecting Syria as a whole.

The Editor.

Recent reports from Palestine indicate an improvement from the crisis that prevailed in 1926 and the greater part of 1927. Industrial activity has increased, and the orange crop is more satisfactory. The unemployment problem, however, is still serious, in spite of the increased industrial needs and relief afforded through additional requirements of labor for construction work on the new Rutenberg hydroelectric project.

The country had made rapid progress during the period 1921-1925, and the reaction which set in during the latter year was a natural result of overexpansion. This reaction, however, has not been without certain beneficial effects. It has eliminated the less stable factors from the economic structure and has resulted in a general readjustment of the country to its increased population and changed conditions, thus paving the way there for further constructive work.

### *Rapid Growth of Population Caused Inflation—Depression Follows.*

The population of Palestine at the end of 1926 was estimated at 890,000, as compared with 737,000 in October, 1922. This increase demanded an urgent demand for housing and gave impetus to certain small industries, which provided employment for many immigrants. When the reaction set in during 1925, however, the labor released from these activities could not be absorbed by agriculture, which had not progressed so rapidly as had industry. Moreover, about this time the immigration into



Palestine was at its peak, so that a rather difficult situation developed—unemployment increased, the purchasing power of the people declined, and industries dependent upon the home market reduced or ceased operations. This situation marked the beginning of the readjustment that has continued through 1926 and 1927.

Funds from abroad had contributed largely to the rapid development of the country, so that a diminution of this supply during the past two years has had an important effect on the credit situation. Money has been tight and the banks have adopted a very conservative credit policy, a condition that has resulted in numerous failures of concerns established during the peak of prosperity. These failures, however, are not an accurate index of general conditions in the country, since these concerns were the first to feel the effects of depression, whereas the more stable institutions have been able to survive the reaction.

*Budget Position Improved.*

A satisfactory condition is noted in the progress of public finances in Palestine. From a deficit of £E72,000, in the budget of 1922-23 a surplus of £E187,000 is indicated in the 1926-27 budget, leaving a surplus for the period 1922-1927 estimated at £E500,000 (\$2,500,000).

*Large Areas Barren—Research Aids Agriculture.*

Of the total area of approximately 9,000 square miles, about one-third is barren land capable of little, if any, agricultural development. Fully 1,800 square miles more are of questionable agricultural use. The remainder, an area of somewhat more than 3,000,000 acres, has definite agricultural possibilities, but in some large sections irrigation and other more or less expensive operations are necessary for profitable farming.

The chief development in agriculture has been the settlement of Jewish immigrants under the auspices of the various organizations. Large sums have been spent for the purchase of land for settlement purposes, considerable areas of swamp land have been drained, and agricultural experiment stations have been established; all this has resulted in the introduction of new crops. A special study of live stock husbandry has been undertaken, with a resultant improvement in the care of animals and their breeding; also, an educational campaign has been launched for the purpose of introducing modern methods of

poultry farming. A survey was also made of soil conditions, fertilizer requirements, and underground water supply, with a view to placing agriculture on a more scientific basis.

*Fruit Growing Increases—Oranges Most Valuable Crop.*

The climate and soil of Palestine are particularly well adapted for fruit growing, and its development has received special attention. Oranges constitute the most successful crop and their culture has developed rapidly since 1921, with large increase in acreage planted in 1925 and 1926. In the latter year oranges represented approximately 44 per cent. of total export values and a small gain over 1925.

Exact statistics of production are not available, but the following estimates have been made for oranges and lemons combined:

	BOXES		BOXES
1921.....	830,960	1924.....	1,589,330
1922.....	1,234,250	1925.....	2,146,450
1923.....	1,365,540	1926.....	1,887,500

Watermelons also constitute an increasingly important item in the fruit production of Palestine. Other fruits grown in commercial quantities are apricots, figs, plums, and raisins, but their exports are relatively unimportant.

Wheat, barley, durra, and sesame constitute the major grain crops of the country. Local production, however, is not sufficient for domestic needs, and certain quantities are imported regularly. This condition has resulted in an increase of area sown to grains.

*Manufacturing Unimportant—Mineral Resources Limited.*

Manufacturing is relatively unimportant in Palestine. A few industries have been introduced, with varying success; but, temporarily at least, the lack of raw materials and the absence of coal for fuel handicap the establishment of manufacturing on a large scale. The fuel need, however, is expected to be substituted by power from the proposed hydroelectric projects under the Rutenberg scheme. Among the older and more important industries of the country may be mentioned flour milling, production of silicate bricks (made of sand and lime), vegetable oils and soap, cement, wine, cigarettes, etc.

The mineral resources of the country have not been fully

investigated, but partial surveys indicate that the only potential mineral wealth is contained in the waters of the Dead Sea. The deposits of this sea represent a valuable asset from a commercial point of view, and negotiations for their exploitation have been carried on for some time.

*Commercial Centers Developing—Rapid Growth of Tel-Aviv.*

Jerusalem, with a population of 70,000, is the capital and principal inland trading center of Palestine. From a commercial point of view, however, it is not of outstanding importance, although it is the center of the growing tourist traffic of the Holy Land. Jaffa, the principal port of the country, is the leading commercial city. It is the center for the export of oranges, and a number of small industries are located there. An outstanding handicap is the lack of an adequate harbor; ships are forced to anchor about a mile offshore in an open roadstead, and the loading and unloading of cargoes is effected by lighters. Jaffa is connected with Jerusalem by a motor road and by rail.

Haifa (or Caiffa) is another growing port. It commands the hinterland, with which it is connected by rail; is the terminus of the Cairo-Kantara-Lydd-Haifa line, and is the center of many good motor roads that radiate from it. It also lacks a harbor, but it is estimated that less expense would be involved in developing this harbor than the one at Jaffa.

Tel-Aviv, the center of the Jewish colonies in Judea, has grown under the impetus of Jewish immigration from a suburb of Jaffa to a municipality of 40,000 population. The largest orange and almond groves and vineyards are located in its vicinity. Until 1925 the expansion of Tel-Aviv was such that the demand for houses was greatly in excess of the buildings available, and an extensive building program was launched in order to keep pace with the influx of workers and residents. As a consequence, the city was greatly overbuilt in anticipation of a permanent inflow of population, and the economic crisis which Palestine has been undergoing since October, 1925, has been particularly acute in the city of Tel-Aviv.

The development of cheap electric power by the Rutenberg power plant is expected to be a boon to manufacturers in Tel-Aviv and the surrounding country. Though many of the industries have been shut down on account of the present economic crisis, it is anticipated that, as the crisis subsides, these will reopen.



*Hydroelectric Project Will Aid Industry.*

The Rutenberg plan, which has the official sanction of the Palestine Government in the form of a concession for 70 years to the Palestine Electric Corporation (Ltd.), Tel-Aviv, Palestine, calls for the harnessing of the Jordan River at intervals from its source to the point where it empties into the Dead Sea, in addition to the utilization of the waters of the Yarmuk River in the same manner. The first dam will be constructed at the point where the Jordan River leaves Lake Tiberias (the Sea of Galilee) with a power house at the town of Abadieh. Between these two points there is a fall of 40 meters in 8 miles.

It has been estimated that when the first stage of the development is completed a supply of 70,000,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year will be provided. As consumption, according to the present requirements, will be 20,000,000 kilowatt-hours a year, there will be a considerable surplus for new industrial enterprises.

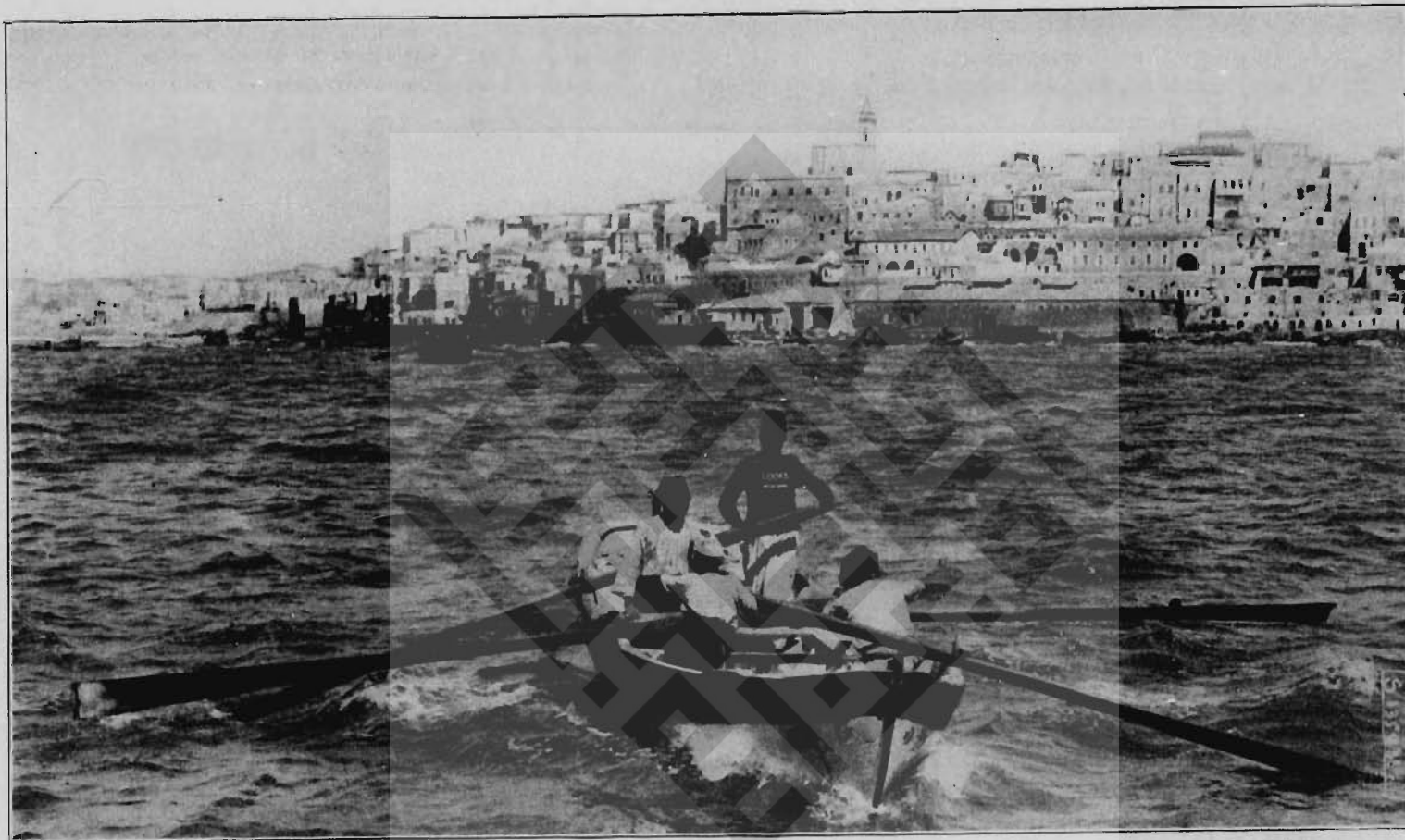
In addition to the hydroelectric development, the Rutenberg scheme also calls for the construction of a system of irrigation ditches, which would convert many large sections of arid land into farms.

*Railway Improved—Motor Roads Extended.*

The economic development of the country has been accompanied by a general improvement and extension of communications. There has been no new railroad construction of any importance, but the existing roads and rolling stock have been improved considerably. The network of motor roads has been so extended that good roads are now available to all points of interest in the country, including Bethlehem, Hebron, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Nablus, Jericho, the Dead Sea, the River Jordan, Es-Salt, Amman (Transjordan), Damascus (Syria), Tyre, Sidon, Acre, Haifa, Jaffa, and Tel-Aviv. The Government's program of road construction anticipates further extension to all centers of population in the country. It is of interest that of 2,123 motor vehicles registered in 1926, 85 per cent. were of American make.

The streets in the principal cities, particularly in Jerusalem and Jaffa, are not in satisfactory condition, but contracts have already been let for macadamizing the main thoroughfares. It is planned to resurface all the city streets in the near future.

**JAFFA, PRINCIPAL PORT OF PALESTINE**



The open roadstead of Jaffa makes the construction of a modern harbor a more expensive undertaking than the development of the port of Haifa, which is fast gaining on Jaffa. (See Article on Recent Developments in Palestine.)



TEL AVIV, PALESTINE



Center of Zionist colonization activities in Palestine which rose within the last few years from a mere suburb of Jaffa to a city of 40,000. (See Article on Recent Developments in Palestine.)

*Imports Exceed Exports.*

The balance of Palestine's foreign trade has been consistently unfavorable, varying in amount between \$18,000,000 and \$30,000,000 per annum. It is impossible to state to what extent this adverse balance is compensated by invisible exports and money remittances from abroad, as even rough estimates of these amounts are not available.

Imports consist chiefly of textile goods, wheat flour, government stores, colonial products, automobiles, benzine, and various manufactured goods. Exports include oranges, soap, water-melons, wines, curios, etc.

*American Sales Well Maintained.*

The depression has had a marked effect on general imports; these declined about 20 per cent. in 1926 as compared with 1925, and a further decrease is indicated for 1927. Imports from the United States, nevertheless, have been fairly well maintained, and the fact that most of the funds contributed for development work in Palestine originate in this country should have a favorable effect on this trade. Although Palestine itself has a limited capacity for absorbing foreign manufactures, it is a valuable field for the introduction of many products that may ultimately find a market in the adjoining territory.

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## *To a Female Cup-Bearer*

*Translated from the Arabic by J. D. CARLYLE*

Come, Leila, fill the goblet up,  
Reach round the rosy wine,  
Think not that we will take the cup  
From any hand but thine.

A draught like this 'twere vain to seek,  
No grape can such supply;  
It steals its tint from Leila's cheek,  
Its brightness from her eye.

## Syrian Naturalization Question in the United States

### CERTAIN LEGAL ASPECTS OF OUR NATURALIZATION LAWS

By JOSEPH W. FERRIS

#### PART II.

The Syrians were most anxious to act on the suggestion of Judge Smith and they immediately carried their appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, the title of the case being *DOW vs. UNITED STATES*, et al (226 Fed. Rep, 145, Sept. 14, 1915.)

It was argued before Pritchard, Knapp and Woods, Circuit Judges. Woods delivered the opinion of the Court. It was most intelligent and comprehensive.

After reciting the fact that Dow was denied naturalization upon the sole ground that a person of Asiatic birth is not a free white person within the meaning of the naturalization statute, the learned Judge reviewed the Statute at length, stating that if it be assumed that the preponderance of the argument was strongly in favor of the conclusion that in 1790 the popular understanding was that people of European nativity or descent were white, nevertheless, however, the popular conception of race division became more distinct as time went on, and that such a construction in 1790 would not be conclusive to the present statute, because the legislators of later years could not have supposed that the term "free white persons" would carry the restricted meaning as held by Judge Smith, and that the controlling factor in ascertaining the moving intention should be given to the words as they stand in the present law. He pointed out that in addition to the amendments at various times, there was a repeal and a new statute in 1802, and new statutes in 1824 and 1828; that in 1870 there had been vigorous debate on the proposition to amend the law by striking out altogether the limitation to "free white persons" so that all aliens without regard to race

could be naturalized. This proposed amendment was defeated, but it resulted in the extension of the privilege of naturalization to "aliens of African nativity and African descent". That in 1873 the report of the Committee on Revision of the Laws omitted the limiting words "free white persons" and that this report was adopted and the limitation was thus removed, being, however, reinstated in 1875; and that certainly after all this Legislative discussion and reconsideration and enactment, the present statute must be construed in light of the general opinion now existing that the inhabitants of a portion of Asia, including Syria, were to be classified as white persons.

With respect to the argument that Syria and the contiguous countries of Asia near the Mediterranean had been subject to many changes in their inhabitants through conquests and other causes, he held that the consensus of opinion at the time of the enactment of the Statute now in force was that they were so closely related to their neighbors, on the European side of the Mediterranean, that they should be classified as white, and must necessarily be held to fall within the term "free white persons" used in the statute.

Reference was made by the Court to the opinion of later writers who are in accord with Blumenbach that Syrians are to be classified as white people, citing Pritchard, *Natural History of Man*, 1848; Pickering, *Races of Man* 1851; Figuier, *the Human Race*, 1872; Jeffries, *Natural History of the Human Race*, 1879; Brinton, *Races and People*, 1901; Keane, *Worlds Peoples*, 1908; and the *Dictionary of Races* as contained in the reports of the Immigration Commission, 1911, which says:

*"Physically the modern Syrians are of mixed Syrian, Arabian and even Jewish blood. They belong to the Semitic branch of the Caucasian race, thus widely differing from their rulers, the Turks, who are in origin Mongolian."*

The Court then held that in accordance with this construction of the Statutes, a large number of Syrians had been naturalized without question and that it was significant in view of these decisions and this practice of the Courts, that Congress had not seen fit to change the law.

Thus the decision of Judge Smith in the lower Court was reversed and Dow's petition for naturalization was granted.



The Government did not see fit, and this is regrettable, to appeal. Nevertheless, the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals in the Dow case is unassailable.

It is believed, however, that the question has been decided for all times by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *UNITED STATES vs. BHAGAT SINGH, THIND*, 261 U. S. 204, (October Term, 1922).

It is true that in the last mentioned case the question pertained to a Hindoo, nevertheless, the opinion of Mr. Justice Sutherland, delivered on behalf of the United States Supreme Court, very pertinently answers any contention such as made by Judge Smith.

It was held that the words "free white persons" imparted a racial and not an individual test and were meant to indicate persons of only what is popularly known as the Caucasian race. This is in direct contravention of the holding of Judge Smith.

It is further held that the mere ability on the part of an applicant for naturalization to establish a line of descent from a Caucasian ancestor did not ipso facto and necessarily conclude the inquiry. "Caucasian" was a conventional word of much flexibility as the study of literature dealing with racial questions disclosed and while it and the words "white person" are treated as synonymous in some of the cases, yet they were not of identical meaning—idem per idem.

The Court held that the word "Caucasian" not only was not employed in law but was probably wholly unfamiliar to the original framers of the Statute in 1790, and that when it was employed by the Court, they did so solely to ascertain the legislative intent.

The United States Supreme Court then went on to hold that during the last half century, especially, the word by common usage had acquired a popular meaning, not clearly defined, to be sure, but sufficiently so to enable the Court to say that this popular, as distinguished from its scientific, application was of appreciably narrower scope and that it was in the popular sense of the word, therefore, that it was employed.

The words "White persons" implied a racial test, but the term "race" was one which for the practical purpose of the Statute, must be applied to a group of living persons now possessing in common the requisite characteristics and not to a group of persons who were supposed to be or really are descended from

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some remote common ancestor, but who, whether they both resemble him to a higher or lower extent, had at any rate ceased altogether to resemble one another.

The question for determination was not, therefore, whether by speculative processes of ethnological reasoning a probability was presented to the scientific mind that persons had the same origin, but whether such persons can satisfy the common understanding that they are now the same or sufficiently the same to justify the interpreters of a statute—written in the words of common speech for common understanding by unscientific men—in classifying them together in a statutory category as white persons.

The Court further held that the Aryan theory as a racial basis seems to be discredited by most, if not all modern writers on the subject of ethnology, and that the term, Aryan, had to do with linguistic and not at all physical characteristics and that it would seem reasonably clear that mere resemblance in language indicating a common linguistic root buried in remotely ancient soil, is altogether inadequate to prove common racial origin.

As to the word "Caucasian", the Court said that this was in scarcely better repute and was at best a conventional term with an altogether fortuitous origin, which under scientific manipulation had come to include far more than the unscientific mind suspected.

It said that the various authorities were irreconcilable as to what constituted a proper racial division and that, for instance, Blumenbach had five races; Keane, following Linnaeus, four; Deniker, twenty-nine; and that the explanation probably is, that the numerous varieties of mankind run into one another by insensible degrees. Therefore a given group cannot be properly assigned to any of the enumerated grand racial divisions.

The Court then held that the words "free white persons" are words of common speech to be interpreted in accordance with the understanding of the common man, synonymous with the word "Caucasian" only as that word is popularly understood.

In the conclusion of the United States Supreme Court decision, there appears a very important statement which supports the interpretation that Syrians fall within the provisions of the Naturalization Law.

The United States Supreme Court said that it was not with-

out significance that Congress by the Act of February 5th, 1917, Chapter 39, Sec. 3, 39 Stat. 874, had now excluded from admission into this Country all natives of Asia within designated limits of latitude and longitude, including the whole of India. This, in the opinion of the Court, not only constituted conclusive evidence of the Congressional attitude of opposition to Asiatic immigration generally, but was persuasive of a similar attitude toward Asiatic naturalization as well, since it was not likely that Congress would be willing to accept as citizens the class of persons whom it rejects as immigrants.

While at first blush this statement might seem to be derogatory to any contention that Syrians fell within the provisions of the Naturalization Law, yet on inspection of the Act of Congress which is now commonly known as the Restrictive Immigration Act, it will be found that Syrians were not one of the excluded class of immigrants because Syria does not fall within the designated geographical area, from which immigration is excluded. To the contrary, a fixed quota was established by Congress for Syrians.

#### — BASHA CASE —

It may be further interesting to note that the same Judge Smith above referred to, had occasion in 1923, on the application of one F. W. Basha, to again raise the question in face of the reversal of his decision in the Dow case. He denied the petition of Basha, assigning as a reason that the passage of the Restrictive Immigration Act in 1917 showed an intention on the part of Congress to exclude Syrians from naturalization.

The writer had occasion to deal with this decision at length and on an application for a rehearing, it being pointed out that Syria was not within the restrictive territories, Basha's petition for naturalization was granted.

The geographical limits as fixed by the Act of Congress of 1917, insofar as they applied to the present question, are as follows:

*On the West — longitude, 50 degrees east of Greenwich Meridian,*

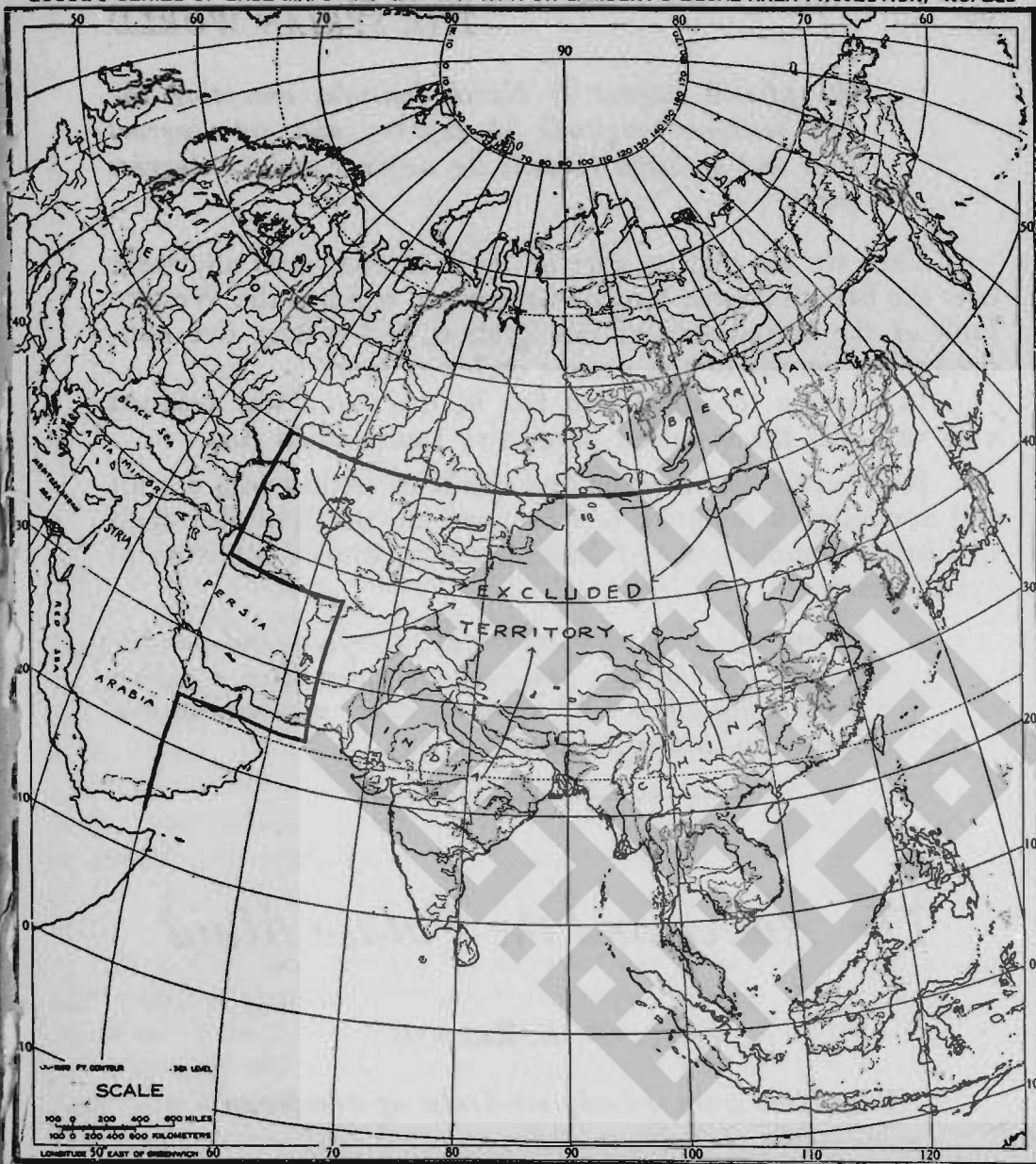
*On the East — longitude, 110 degrees east of Greenwich Meridian,*

*and within these East and West longitudes, south of*

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For Class Use in Geography, History, Civics, Economics, etc. Prepared by J. Paul Goode. Published by The University of Chicago.  
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### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 8, SUB-DIVISION (n)

Unless otherwise provided for by existing treaties, persons who are natives of islands not possessed by the United States adjacent to the Continent of Asia, situate south of the twentieth parallel latitude north, west of the one hundred and sixtieth meridian of longitude east from Greenwich, and north of the tenth parallel of latitude south, or who are natives of any country, province, or dependency situate on the Continent of Asia west of the one hundred and tenth meridian of longitude east from Greenwich and east of the fiftieth meridian longitude east from Greenwich and south of the fiftieth parallel of latitude north, except that portion of said territory situate between the fiftieth and the sixty-fourth meridians of longitude east from Greenwich and the twenty-fourth and thirty-eighth parallels of latitude north, and no alien now in any way excluded from, or prevented from entering, the United States shall be admitted to the United States.



*the fiftieth degree of North latitude, excepting the part between longitude 56 degrees and 64 degrees East and between latitude 24 degrees and 38 degrees north.*

Thus we see that no part of Syria extends even anywhere near the fiftieth degree East of Greenwich, which is the Western limit of the barred area of immigration, and is over five hundred miles outside of the nearest exclusion limit.

In addition the conclusive fact is, that Syria was assigned a quota under the so-called Restrictive Immigration Act.

It is hoped that the question has been settled once for all and in closing, it might be best to quote the words of Raymond F. Christ, Commissioner of Naturalization, who in referring to Syrians, said:

*"I am sure that such evidences of loyalty and patriotism to the Country can have no other than a highly stimulating effect \* \* \* upon all other nationalities and American citizens, as well."*

## *The Ameer and the Palace Maid*

by DR. N. A. KATIBAH

*Translated from the original Arabic of Abu Nawas*

A lass hailed swaying down the palace hall.  
Half drunk, half sober, winsome, coy and tall;  
Her flowing mantle, now let loose, I won;  
Her girdle, too, unguarded, came undone.  
I pressed the advantage, veiled by sable night;  
"Black night," she scorned, "vouchsafes but blind delight."  
Nonplussed, I prayed her bind her love to test;  
She sweetly breathed: "Tomorrow thou'rt my guest."  
But on the morrow when I sought her graces,  
"Daylight," quoth she, "the word of night effaces."

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# The Meeting

## A SHORT STORY

By HARRY CHAPMAN FORD

*Author of "Anna Ascends" etc.*

The mystery is still discussed at Khoury's Coffee House, where, when in town, it is my wont to have my evening meal. I refer to the strange and sudden disappearance from the Syrian Quarter of Frosine Sibyan, "Heavenly Frosine" as she was called, and she was heavenly—divinely so in every possible way. Beautiful, very dark brown hair, thick at the roots and reaching to her knees, crowned an oval madonna-like face with cheeks that seemed to have been kissed by the rose petals of old Syria. Eyes as deep and as clear as the old wells in the Coele Valley—a mouth as warm and as sweet as the summer zephyrs which play around the slopes of Lebanon, and a body as straight and as graceful as a date palm. Such was Frosine. "The Spirit of Syria", I called her, transplanted and flourishing on American soil.

Yes, the mystery is still frankly wondered at and discussed. She vanished one day and never a trace of her has been heard of since. Everybody has his version of the affair. The fat little oil merchant, the lace man, the doctor, the lawyer and all the rest, have some sort of theory about it. Perhaps, you, too, have heard of the case and have your own particular ideas concerning it. But now I feel it time to state that all those ideas and theories are quite wrong—and the true story of it is known only to me. I, the Anglo-Saxon, who sat at the corner table and listened, quite amused, at the arguments and discussions, am the only living being who has the true story of Frosine, that is, I am quite sure it is the true story, and I should like to hear from any of my readers and get their opinion on my tale. They may deride and scoff at it, but let me say that I have gone to considerable expense, and I hope not waste of much valuable time, to prove my case, and I am telling this little story with the fear that you will call me a superstitious and ignorant fool,

but I will put the facts before you and you can deduct from them what you will and come to your own conclusions. I lay my reputation before you and you can weigh and judge it as you will weigh and judge the story—not story, no, for the tale is true.

Before I unfold the matter before you, I will digress for the moment and mention to you an historical and recorded fact. It should allay some of the doubt you might entertain when you have done with the story. Here is one thing I want you to remember before you condemn my narrative as impossible and ridiculous and consign it to the waste paper basket. It is this.

Somewhat over one hundred and fifty years ago, near the old city of Damascus, the wife of a well-to-do Syrian merchant bore him twins. These children were linked together by a cartilage or gristle at the hips, like the well-known Siamese Twins, but in the case of the Syrian children the attachment was not hopeless and the doctor separated them a few weeks after the birth. However, the surgeon's knife could not separate their souls and they grew to manhood linked in heart and soul, never out of each other's sight and with a strong and beautiful love for each other. At the proper time these boys were sent to Paris, France, to complete their education. This finished, they entered business there and prospered. The First Consul had been proclaimed Emperor by the *Senatus Consultum* and plans were being made to crush Syria under the iron heel along with other weak countries, when Cadoudal, Pichegru, the two Polignacs and others entered into a plot against Napoleon with the object in view, viz, the restoration of the Bourbons. Naturally, the two Syrians entered into the plot, which was discovered and proclamations placarded their names, in large letters, on every street corner, accompanied by the word, "*Traîtres à la République*". The brothers were forced to flee for their lives, but with a goodly sum of gold they escaped in disguise and returned to their native land, separating, however, to help the escape. They never met again, but to the end they kept in touch with each other, lived and died as all men should, leaving families. Of course, they changed their names to avoid arrest, even in their own land, the arm of the emperor being long, but when the "murderer of Europe" was safe at St. Helena, they resumed their family name again. Now, bear in mind, the name was Sibyan. The incident I have quoted above may seem, at the present moment,

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to be vague and involved to you, but I think it will prove my story beyond a doubt. Let us get ahead with Froschine.

\* \* \* \*

Froschine's father had been a very good friend of mine and at his death, I sort of looked after her, or, I should say, she positively looked after me. I had a studio in New York at the time, commuting from my home in the country and arriving there at nine in the morning, I would work until about three in the afternoon and then go home. Froschine, who held a very good stenographer's position, would work for me, part time, getting to the studio sometime after five in the afternoon and doing odd jobs for me, such as mailing scripts, recording rejections or acceptances, copying plays and that sort of work. Hence, I rarely saw her, except on Saturdays when we would meet at one o'clock and spend the rest of the day together, taking in two performances at the theatres and having dinner in some little strange eating place. Those were banner days for us. We both enjoyed them and the scheme of things might have gone on to no end had not a fatal thing happened. Froschine fell in love—fell in love suddenly, and to my mind without cause. It happened in this wise. One Saturday, as we were about to leave the studio and go to a show, there was a knock at the door. Froschine answered and on the threshold stood one of the most pleasant and wholesome youths I ever saw. In very perfect English he stated his business. He was a confectioner. The maker of sweet cakes of all sorts and was soliciting orders to be delivered twice a week. Would we please taste his wares? And if we liked his concoctions, would we give him an order? He lifted the cover of a strange looking basket and there before us on spotless linen were his creations. I recall now that Froschine wasn't particularly interested in his sweetmeats. Rather did she look steadily into his face—and after a few words between them, she gave me the shock of my life by asking him inside. One could not help liking the boy. What a smile he had. What a smile. His body was like that of a Greek God, and he was tall for his race, very tall. We sampled his wares, and as Froschine used to boss me unmercifully (and I liked it) she ordered cakes for my particular diet twice a week.

Suddenly, without rhyme or reason, the two burst into their native tongue. The conversation waxed fast between them, mak-



ing Frosine and I quite late for the matinee, but I didn't care, as they seemed so animated and keen toward each other and from time to time Frosine would throw me a sentence in English and put me wise to the trend of their conversation. It seemed, by a strange chance, that they were of the same name—Sibyan—but probably in no way related, as their parents came from distinct districts in Syria.

All things must end but love, and so with their first meeting. Amine, that was the boy's name, had customers to seek and we had a matinee to see. We parted with him and I did not see Amine for another week. Not so with Frosine. She told me she saw him every day. It was a true case of love at first sight. He was her man and she was his woman. There was no chance of getting away from that fact for either of them. Love came into their hearts, love all powerful and conquering. It was thrust upon them without their seeking and they were dazed by its strength and beauty. The whole affair was beyond understanding to me. I had never seen anything like it before and can never hope to again. It was a love that happens once in a lifetime—five lifetimes. I haven't the words to express it. It was beyond adjectives. A gift from God. At first it left me with rather a chilly void in my heart. Something seemed to have gone out of my life, because Frosine was giving most of her time to her boy, but my fears were quite groundless, for instead of having only her I had them both, and the Trinity, as we dubbed ourselves, spent many a happy hour together.

Matters progressed smoothly. Amine had over seven hundred customers, (his smile was not to be resisted) and had opened a shop, a little shop tucked away on a side street but well patronized. They were to be married at once and spend their honeymoon at the studio. Everything was cut and dried.

The three of us were very happy, when America entered the World War. That awful war which warped men's souls or ennobled them. Amine did not wait for the draft. He couldn't nor would Frosine let him. He enlisted—and God only knows what it cost the two of them. Life ahead of them so clear and beautiful, but they never hesitated for a moment, even when I advised it. The die was cast but they would be married at once, no matter what happened. Arrangements were rushed and there was need for it as Amine was called to report and given only twenty-four hours to do so. Twenty-four hours! They were

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married inside of five. Of course I stood up with them. We returned to the studio where they were to spend the few bridal hours that were left and I remained only a short time to make necessary arrangements. I shall never forget those last few hours I spent with them. They sat together, close, on the big divan, with the moon shining through the window upon them making the lovers—mates—appear as one, undivided. The conversation was rather vague to me, outside of the little business matters we had to clear up, but, aside from those, I remember Froschine giving Amine a tiny little cross on a threadlike chain, which he placed around his wrist, swearing never to remove it. It had been her mother's. I have, too, a very vivid recollection of a solemn promise made by Froschine, that, no matter the outcome, dead or alive, they would seek each other out. A strange vow, dead or alive. Nothing could part them. God was good. Life was only life, but love was everything else.

I left them to the few hours they had before he was to go away. I never saw the boy again. He went away early the next morning and very soon Froschine and I were back in our regular routine again with slips of rejections and plays. From the time Amine went away Froschine wrote to him twice a day. Never a day was missed and the boy answered in kind. The poor dears seemed to get a lot of happiness out of life though they were three thousand miles apart. Absence; the space of ocean wide; the lonely hours which slowly crept apace could not dim a love like that, but rather enhanced it, if such a thing were possible. Days passed into months and the months into years. It seemed strange to me that the world didn't give up trying during that harrowing time. It was a surprise to me to see the sun rise every morning, while such awful things were occurring. Yet men continued to barter and sell. Politicians still lied; men still hated and loved—and some even laughed. Yet again, some even made money.

Exactly ten days before the Armistice, I (one of the men who laughed) had attended a heavy dinner down town, where heavier wine was served. I tired of it and soon left the place, which was only around the corner from the studio. A little tipsy I should call myself, not drunk, but just a trifle too much of wine, which had gone to my head in the overheated dining room. Once in the street, the thought came to me it would be wise, owing to the several holdups that were occurring at the time,

that I had better stop at the studio and leave my platinum cuff links, watch and chain and other trinkets of considerable value, before I walked across town to the ferryhouse four blocks away. I would leave them with a note to Froschine. I fancied how pleased she would be when she discovered I had done something she would want me to do. Her dear old absent minded guardian remembering to save his valuables from possible footpads.

I opened the door and walked in. There was no light in the vestibule. I went into the studio proper and switched on the lights. God of Heaven, I shall never forget that sight. Froschine was there sprawled out on the floor: her head and shoulders resting against the heavy brass coal box. Her beautiful hair in gorgeous disarray about her, seemed to be trying with modesty to protect her. Her eyes were wide open, staring cold and lifeless ahead. In her left hand was an official looking document, which I recognized at once as from the War Department. I had seen enough of them to know.

She did not recognize me, could not answer me. Her whole body seemed turned to stone. I picked her up and carried her to the couch, then called a doctor friend of mine. He worked all night over her and at last brought her to normal.

Did I say normal? No. Back to life but not normal. For three months the poor girl hovered between life and death. Silent and still. Never a word from her, but I felt that she was going to live; that she wanted to live—for some serious object—I knew not what. At last, one day, she arose from the bed and dressed. Still beautiful, even with her deep set eyes, hollow cheeks and wasted form. A few articles she packed in a bag, then she turned to me and said:

"I'll go to Amine, now. He needs me."

Instantly, I feared that she intended to do away with herself.

"Don't do anything so foolish, my child." And as gently as possible I added:

"Amine would not want you to do that."

She smiled at me wanly.

"You mistake me, dear friend. I will do nothing like you think.

She mused: "What would be the good?"

And she cryptically added: "It won't be long, now, anyway."

"What won't be long?" I asked mystified.

"They cannot keep us apart. We have promised. I sail for France. Will..... will you see me off?"

There was no use arguing with her. She must sail for France, and sail she did. I stood on the dock and watched the ship disappear over the horizon, with the tingle of her warm and chaste kiss still on my lips. That's the last I ever saw of Froscine in life and that's the answer to the mystery of her disappearance. But that's not the end of my story.

\* \* \* \*

They reached the brow of the hill—the man and woman—and reciprocally paused for rest. The man removed the cigarette from his lips and pointed the stained and wet end in a vague manner towards the fast setting sun and spoke.

"It was there, Madame." He gazed at her keenly, expecting a correction by word or sign concerning the madame, but the woman remained silent and still. He continued:

"It was there. You observe the stone wall? Oui? You also see the large grey rock where the wall ends? There is a brook there. At the end of the rock, reaching the water's edge, is where—where it happened."

He replaced the cigarette in his mouth, puffing contentedly, as if to convey the impression that his information was given—his work done and it was now the woman's move. Still she was silent, her eyes fixed steadily on the spot he had indicated. The man impatiently continued:

"Night is well on us, Madame—and I have passengers—a bridal couple, to convey to Messincourt by nine—bridal couples should not be disappointed with all the happy years before them."

He paused a second for a reply but none came, then he continued— "We are twelve miles from Sachby—will Madame be so gracious....." The woman seemed to come to life. She spoke with a strained voice, "The water's edge—at the rock, you say?"

"Oui, Madame, but nothing was found of him. Not a button. The shell struck at his feet. The rest of us had fallen prone, but not he. As a shell bursts fan-shaped we escaped, but he....."

"Take this," she almost whispered. She handed him her full purse. "There is more than enough. Please go—and thank you."



The man looked with surprised pleasure at the small but well stuffed hand bag and then at the woman.

"But, Madame," he objected, yet secreting it in some mysterious pocket under his smock, "you without.....er..... but..... shall I wait for you?"

The woman's eyes had returned their gaze to the rock. "I will have no use for the gold—or for you. You may return to Sachby."

"As you say, Madame," returned the man, backing towards the road they had just left. "If Madame finds herself without accommodations, Jean Richard will no doubt lodge her. That is he, with his two sisters, working in the field beyond the wall."

She glanced toward the three peasants, hoeing lettuce in the other field. They were working fast, as the lights were turning to black and grey shadows. She answered the man without looking at him, "I will need no accommodations," then with a cryptic smile she added, "Return for me in the morning. I shall be somewhere near the rock."

"Oui, Madame." He definitely decided that she was crazy. Fool, that he had been, himself, not to have suspected before. This tall, dark woman, dressed entirely in black, who seemed dead all over, save her burning eyes, which were live enough to drag the rest of her through life itself. She had sought him out only that morning at Sachby and without any preliminaries, asked his name—his company and regiment during the war—and his part of a small skirmish that had taken place near Sachby. She had brought a letter from headquarters in Paris, so he had answered all her questions readily enough. Yes, he had reached Sedan with the American troops after the Hindenberg line had been broken. Yes, he, as a Frenchman, had been assigned to such and such company. One or two Frenchmen had been placed with each company of American troops, to show them the ropes. Yes. Yes. Yes. He remembered Amine Sibyan, very well. Nice boy. Wore a gold cross on a small chain around his wrist. Yes, he knew exactly where he had been killed, but it was useless for Madame to go there. Nothing was found of him. Was Madame Amine's sister? Yes, yes, he would convey her to the spot on the morrow. Not today, Madame, it was too late. Time for supper, nearly. Yet if Madame insisted he would go with her now, but nothing could be seen in the dusk of the evening—and it would cost her eighty francs. Petrol was so very dear,



and there was just enough in the tank to take them to the spot and back—the spot where Amine Sibyan had so unfortunately been blown to pieces, ever so little pieces. Not a button was left of him. Those things would happen. He had seen it occur many times during the war.

And so he had brought this strange and ghostly woman to the place—and she intended to remain through the night. Very well, let her, but he intended to hide behind the large Lombardy Poplar and find out just what crazy thing she was up to. From his place of concealment he saw the woman descend the hill slowly, her eyes fixed seemingly on the rock he had indicated. When she reached the spot, she lifted her face toward the sky, her arms upraised, too, as if she were praying—or, perhaps, giving thanks for something—yes, that is what it was, for the next instant she was on her knees at the rock, groping through the grass with her hands, as if searching for something. This seemed to the man in hiding to take a long time and he was about to stop his spying, go to his car and drive back to Sachby and the wedding couple, when suddenly the woman stopped her search. She sat on the grass, her upper body resting against the rock. A tired resignation, yet triumphant attitude, told him that she had been successful in her search—whatever it was for. She laid there as still as death. Then the watcher was attracted by the actions of Jean the peasant and his two sisters. Jean, with a cry, pointed toward the wall in an agitated manner with his hoe and the girls stood transfixed with awe and fear. They could not see the woman in black. The watcher was sure of that, because the wall and rock hid her completely from the lettuce workers, hence, what was causing the stir in the other field? The two girls, dropping their implements, backed down the row of lettuce, then turned and ran, Jean following them at a more dignified gait. The watcher came from his hiding place to meet them and hailed them cheerfully, so as not to frighten the girls, who seemed to be at their wits' end. The little group reached him.

“God of Heaven,” Jean panted, “but we have just seen something—saw it with our own eyes.” The girls were crying softly with fright.

“Yes, Monsieur,” said the man from Sachby, noncommittingly. “With our own eyes,” Jean repeated. “A soldier in an American uniform and a woman dressed in black appeared from behind the wall near the old grey rock—appeared, I say, and

walked toward the sun—strange—strange—they were ghosts, I am sure, for they walked right into the setting sun and disappeared again." He paused, peering through the gloom at the man from Sachby in a threatening manner, as if to dare his disbelief. "Do you believe me? Ask Sophie and Annetta, here. They saw it, too."

The wall and rock were now hidden in the darkness of night. The man did not answer. He turned to the road toward his weezy old car.

"I tell the truth," insisted Jean. "We saw them, arm in arm, like lovers, young and true lovers, walk into the sun."

The man turned to answer him. "Perhaps your imagination, or the black bread you eat. Get into my car and I will drive you to your cottage." So they went their way.

The next morning the woman was found dead—just as the man had seen her last. Her face was so beautiful in death with a heavenly smile that seemed to promise her so much in that mysterious life that is to come. Nothing was found on the woman to identify her, save in her left hand, tightly clasped to her heart, was a little gold cross on a thread-like chain of gold. They buried her with it—neath the rock.

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## *Arab Proverbs*

Two things only those who have lost appreciate most: Youth and Health.

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Better be silent until you are asked to speak, than speak until you are asked to be silent.

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The wise man is he who makes his own breast the repository of his secrets.

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Poor sight is not so much of a shortcoming when one is blessed with insight.

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To ask for undeserving praise is the worst presumption.

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The supposition of the learned man is superior to the assertion of the ignorant one.

## The Clemency of Mu'awiyah

*His Great Forbearance with Zarqa, the Koufite woman Who Exhorted the Followers of 'Ali to Resist Him.*

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ADAPTED FROM THE ARABIC.

The years immediately following the death of the Prophet Mohammed were turbulent days for Islam. The issue of succession led to bloody warfare among his followers even though they were relentlessly pursuing their ever widening plan of conquest. Mu'awiyah had firmly established himself in Syria and was formulating his plans for a world empire. He was not only an able general but a master statesman and administrator. He contested the right of 'Ali to the Khilafat and resolutely went to war in defense of his claim. The Day of Saffeen, in which was waged the great battle which was to decide the issue, witnessed one of the bloodiest, most desperate engagements in the annals of the Arabs. Mu'awiyah won and firmly established his rule in Damascus. For nearly a hundred years the dynasty which he founded was master of the destinies of the Islamic Empire which had expanded to a larger extent than that of the Roman Empire at the height of its power. Even during the lifetime of Mu'awiyah most of the conquests were accomplished.

Following the battle of Saffeen, Mu'awiyah one day called to him his principal lieutenants and supporters to discuss matters of state. The conversation naturally ran first into reminiscences of the signal victory achieved. Some of those present were bitter in their denunciation of the instigators of the struggle and those responsible for the continuation of the battle after the preliminary stages. They all agreed that had it not been for the impassioned appeal of a certain Koufite woman of the opposing camp the battle would not have lasted so long or taken such a heavy toll in blood.

"I well recall," said a member of the council, "how this woman, mounted on a conspicuously red camel, harangued the enemy and urged him on to battle. She is the Zarqa, daughter of Ade'e and hails from Al-Koufa. She was indefatigable on



the day of Saffeen. Wherever the lines of the enemy wavered she drove her camel to their midst and steadied them. Her words carried such magic force that the cowards were inspired by them to new courage, those attempting to flee were turned back to fight and the scattering ranks of the enemy were held together so much longer. But for her, the friends of 'Ali would have never resisted our onslaught for the length of time they did or caused us so much loss."

All those present who had taken part in the memorable battle acquiesced in the statement of the speaker, and in reply to Mu'awiyah's question as to what they would advise should be done to Zarqa, all favored putting her to death.

But the wise Mu'awiyah was indignant at such counsel. "Fi on you and your ill advice," he said in reply. "Would you have me, in the consciousness of my power, wreak vengeance on a woman because of her loyalty to a doomed cause? Such, by Allah, shall never be." And Mu'awiyah forthwith summoned his secretary and dictated a letter to his agent in Al-Koufa ordering him to have Zarqa sent to him to Damascus with some of the principal men of her tribe and that all should be provided on the way with all possible conveniences of travel. Mu'awiyah was determined to again show the magnanimity of character, the clemency, the benevolent statesmanship which made his reign one of the most glorious periods of early Islam.

At the appointed time Zarqa reached Damascus and appeared before Mu'awiyah who greeted her most kindly and inquired after her comfort during the journey. The preliminary courtesies over, he asked her if she knew the reason he had sent for her and if she had entertained any fears, to which she replied that she was at the mercy of the Caliph for him to dispose of her in accordance with his conception of justice.

"I have sent for you," said Mu'awiyah, "to ascertain from you if you were the woman who rode the red camel in the battle of Saffeen and harangued the followers of 'Ali to fight against me, causing thereby so much more bloodshed among the Faithful?"

"Truth cannot be denied," replied Zarqa.

"But what prompted you to such an act?" again asked Mu'awiyah.

"O Prince of the Faithful," she replied, "the head has now been severed and the body mutilated, so why revive dis-



cussion in a subject that is only liable to cause sorrow and pain? Just as night succeeds day, so do events succeed one another and bring about different conditions. Whosoever gives a little thought to different matters will not fail to discover the reasons thereof."

"What you have stated is all true, O aunt," said Mu'awiyah. "But I would like to have you repeat your harangues to the followers of 'Ali on the day of Saffeen. Can you recall them?"

"No," she replied.

"Then let me repeat them as best as I can recall that you may be the judge of their authenticity. You were heard to say: 'O men, candle light cannot eclipse the sun, nor the rays of the stars dim the brightness of the moon. You know that the mule cannot outdistance the fleet horse, and that only iron is strong enough to break iron. You are now fighting for a sacred and just cause. Let anyone ask us our stand and we shall tell him that Truth was seeking its course and has now found it in our defense of our cause. Now you who claim the distinction of being Immigrants and the Supporters of the Prophet, can you not see that Justice has been established and that Truth has prevailed? Can it be that the righteous should be on a parity with wrongdoers and the believers stand on equality with the unbelievers? To battle, then, in defense of right and justice, and let your stand be that of men who are not found wanting in courage! Fear you to be smeared with blood? Why, blood is the ornamental dye of men just as henna is the ornamental dye of women. Hold then your ground and let not the cohorts of usurpation and injustice overcome you, for this is the day that is pregnant with all the possibilities of the future, after which there shall be no other day in which to retrieve a lost opportunity!'"

Having thus quoted the woman's words, Mu'awiyah asked her if the quotation was correct, and upon receiving from her an affirmative reply he said to her: "By your own admission, O Zarqa, you have become a partner to 'Ali in all the blood he has shed."

But to the surprise of Mu'awiyah and all those present, the woman replied: "May Allah amply reward you, O Prince of the Faithful, for the extremely good news you have just imparted to me in classing me with 'Ali. Truly, you are the fit bearer of joyful tidings and the one who knows exactly what most pleases his guests."

And upon recovering from his surprise, Mu'awiyah, still the patient, forbearing, wise ruler he was reputed to be, asked her: "Have my remarks truly caused you joy, and you would feel proud in sharing with 'Ali' all the responsibility of the blood he has spilled while fighting me, I who now show you such consideration?"

"Aye, by Allah," replied the woman, "your words have pleased me exceedingly and I only wish that they could be made true."

Mu'awiyah would want no more proof of the loyalty of Zarqa to her chosen cause, but instead of wreaking vengeance on her he expressed his admiration for her in no uncertain terms. "By Allah," he said, "I admire more your loyalty to 'Ali' after his death than your love for him when he was alive. State now, O Zarqa, your wants and they shall be granted."

But Zarqa would not state her wants. She seemed to further aggravate matters by saying that she had vowed not to ask a favor of anyone save 'Ali.

"But do you know," said Mu'awiyah, "that many of those who have checked up on your actions advised me to put you to death?"

"Had you followed their advice, O Prince of the Faithful," she said, "you would have degraded yourself to their mean natures and lowly station."

"This we shall never do," replied the wise Caliph. "Rather, we shall pardon you and grant you our most favored protection."

At this great display of forbearance, the haughty spirit of the woman gave way to an expression of extreme gratefulness and appreciation, and she replied: "O Prince of the Faithful, this is but another indication of your great magnanimity. It is only the likes of you who substitute forgiveness for revenge, who overlook human faults and who give without being asked."

Whereupon, the great Mu'awiyah ordered that the woman be given money and clothes in large quantities, that she should be escorted back safely to her home city, that all her tribe be treated with consideration, and that she should be allotted, for life, the revenue of a plantation which amounted to sixteen thousand dirhams annually.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By THE EDITOR

APPRECIATION of honest service has the salutary effect of stimulating the desire to continue, to improve, and to increase. This about represents our reaction to the many expressions of approval received over the service being rendered by THE SYRIAN WORLD. It more than repays for the unsatisfactory financial return in the publication of the magazine.

And what is more gratifying is the fact that appreciation comes not only from individuals but from public bodies as well. We can point with pride to the fact that many organizations and patriotic groups not only in the United States but abroad also have shown tangible proof of their appreciation by making gift subscriptions to editors, legislators, government officials and others whom it is to the interest of Syrians to enlighten on their past history and present conditions.

But the service of THE SYRIAN WORLD seems to be destined to cover a much wider field than that confined to its English-speaking readers. The appreciation of some Arabic editors of the distinct value of the original contributions appearing

in the publication is what makes this possible. This is best illustrated in the case of AL-HODA, the oldest and most widely circulated Arabic paper in America and one of the foremost in the world. Mr. N. A. Mokarzel, editor of AL-HODA, proves his appreciation of the quality of our subject matter by having whole series of articles translated and republished in his paper, giving thereby double value to the service THE SYRIAN WORLD is rendering.

We point to this fact with a certain degree of elation because we see in it proof that our labor is bearing fruit of a certain kind. So far we cannot testify truthfully to receiving the hoped for amount of popular support. It was on that account that we asked for a referendum on the question of the subject matter of the magazine. What was determined by the replies was that the policy and purpose of the publication were overwhelmingly approved by the educated class, but unfortunately this class, in point of numbers, is proportionately small. What they can do,—what they are doing,—is to consider themselves partners in the enterprise



so that financial returns will make possible the continuation and the widening of the service—this service which is considered by them indispensable. In time, we hope, we shall be able to announce that the business side of the enterprise is proving equal to the appreciation it is now receiving from the educated class.

MR. N. A. MOKARZEL, editor of AL-HODA, contributes an interesting detail to the history of the fight which the Syrians of the United States waged to establish their eligibility for American citizenship. As can be deduced from the history of the case given by Mr. Jos. W. Ferris, the fight was precipitated by the obstinacy of Judge Henry A. M. Smith in refusing to admit that Syrians were free white persons within the meaning of the naturalization law. That was in 1914, and the Syrians all over the country were aroused as never before in their history to defend their national honor. They wanted to prove themselves deserving of the high privilege of becoming Americans.

A leader in the fight at that time was Mr. N. A. Mokarzel. Both through his influential paper and by his personal efforts he helped crystallize Syrian public opinion and arouse his

countrymen to collective action. He personally attended the trial before Judge Smith in Charleston and had several private interviews with him.

Now, apropos of the publication in THE SYRIAN WORLD of a historical review of the case, Mr. Mokarzel writes reminiscently of an interesting conversation which he had with Judge Smith on the ethnological qualifications of the Syrians for admission to America and their eligibility for citizenship. On general grounds, Mr. Mokarzel reminded the judge that the Syrians were a branch of the Semitic race and that Christ was a Semite. "Would the learned judge, therefore, exclude from America the racial kins of the One who gave to America its very religion?"

Mr. Mokarzel states that there was no hesitation on the part of the judge in declaring emphatically that "If Christ Himself were to apply for citizenship he would deny it to Him."

Quite a strong statement indeed. The judge must have made it during the heat of argument in a moment of extreme vexation. We would not at this late moment bring him to bar for having delivered himself of an expression so irresponsible. But it is interesting to learn the extent of passion

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which prompted the jurist to assume the attitude which precipitated the controversy. At that time there had been no revival of the Ku Klux Klan movement, but those were the smouldering fires which were destined to burst into flame later.

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HARRY CHAPMAN FORD, who is well known to readers of *THE SYRIAN WORLD*, contributes to this issue an original short story which savors much of the spiritual and mystical. We can well imagine that Mr. Ford's account is not that of an actual experience. His fertile imagination as an author and playwright may well be depended upon to supply a plot. But it is interesting to study his trend of mind in the roles he assigns to the Syrian heroines of his plays and stories. He is always picturing them of highly intellectual and educational aspirations. A few imaginary circumstances are, of course, necessary to lend atmosphere and complete the scheme, as, for instance, in the case of the waitress in "Anna Ascends" and the part time stenographer in Greenwich Village. But we may be sure that the author's object is to bring out the finer intellectual qualities of the Syrian girl as he has come to understand her, albeit

he treats the subject mainly from the American, Western, point of view.

We feel sure our readers will enjoy the short stories of Mr. Ford as much, or even more, than they enjoyed his serial, "Anna Ascends", which was published in the original play form as it was given on the New York stage. And what should be of particular interest is that we have Mr. Ford's promise to contribute liberally of these fine stories in the future.

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GLOZEL and its vicinity have succeeded in gaining a good deal of publicity. Perhaps the American press did not care to publish about the incident connected with that French town other than the details of the scientific controversy which split the learned men of Europe into two hostile camps. Otherwise we would have learned long since some of the reputed causes for the perpetration of the great hoax.

We now learn from the Syrian press, which in turn claims to have gained its information from the European press, that those originally responsible for the Glozel incident had carefully engineered the scheme for purposes of publicity. They were interested in promoting the locality as a winter resort,

and to add to its many attractions they concocted the scheme of making it a suitable field for archæological research.

If this be true, little did the sponsors of the move dream that their scheme would lead to such a bitter controversy where scientists of rank are now concerned more in the vindication of their reputations than in the intrinsic virtues of the place. The way matters seem to be now going, the dispute is bound to be settled in court.

As descendants of the old and honorable Phœnicians, whose great contributions to civilization are being challenged by the Glozelians at such a late hour, we can but assume a policy of watchful waiting. It seems unnecessary for us to put up any defense of the claims of our ancestors, as developments in the Glozel controversy seem to amply take care of that, the latest development being that a sudden raid on a certain farm in Glozel by an anti-Glozelian savant and seven officers of the law yielded unmistakable evidence that some of the discoveries bore inscriptions of very modern origin. The spurious nature of the finds is not contested by the Glozelians, but they ascribe it to underhanded methods by their opponents to discredit them.

So, in the end, both the pros

and cons are reaching a point where they will both agree that beneath the whole affair there is a streak of fraud.

There is an Arabic adage that says: "Let pottery break up itself." The moral of this is that pottery being fragile, hollow and possessing no inherent strength, will wreak easy destruction upon itself when it collides. This seems to be the destiny of Glozelian aspirations, while the claims of the Phœnicians seem to be moulded of something much more substantial than baked clay.

STUDENTS of economic possibilities in Syria and Lebanon cannot fail to appreciate the value of the articles contributed by our countryman Mr. George Knaysi, of Cornell University, and of which the one published in this issue is the last of the series. Mr. Knaysi is eminently qualified to give an expert opinion, and he gives it without reservation, on the possibilities of dairy farming in Syria. Just as the writer suggests, this may prove to be a most profitable enterprise for the investment of capital. But technical knowledge is also required and that is where the scientific training of such men as Mr. Knaysi should prove to be most valuable.

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## Spirit of the Syrian Press

Under this caption we hope to present from time to time a microcosmic picture of the Arabic press, not only in this country, but wherever Arabic dailies and magazines reflect the opinions of responsible, thinking writers who are treating the different problems that confront the Arabic-speaking world from all conceivable angles. Needless to say, we will take no part in the discussions reproduced, nor assume any responsibility. Our task will simply consist in selecting, to the best of our knowledge and with utmost sincerity, what we think is representative of the public opinion as expressed in these editorials.

Editor.

### HOW THEY UNDERSTAND AMERICANISM

You who have just been invested with the new cloak of Americanism; who belittle yourselves and your ancestors; who mock of your customs and traditions; who make no secret of your disgust with life and circumstances simply because you were not born in a country other than Syria, we ask you to check your speed a little and give matters some consideration.

Tarry, O please tarry a while, and reflect on the folly of your actions, for what you are doing is altogether foreign to the true spirit of Americanism. Can you not realize that Americanism which requires the renunciation of your former citizenship and allegiance does not necessarily require that you renounce also the virtues of your race and whatever you have of worthy customs and traditions? Can you not see that this nation which you so greatly admire is composed of nothing less than various racial elements extracted from the Old World from which you also have come?

\*\*\* The man who fails to appreciate the beauty spots of the nation of which he "was" a part may never be expected to detect these spots

in the nation of which he has "become" a part, even though he were to sew the naturalization certificate into his skin!

Go to any museum and ascertain for yourselves how the Americans take so much pains in preserving everything Oriental, be it of manuscripts, statues, extiles, books, coins and all other objects of art. Can you not stand before these relics and recall that you are the descendants of a people who were the missionaries and apostles of civilization and progress to the whole world in their days? While you who were not able to regain your lost glory have scattered in all parts of the world adopting now the citizenship of this country, and then that of the other, much like water which takes on the color of the vase in which it is placed.

Verily we say unto you, now, tomorrow and forever, that he who fails to find in the history of a country such as Syria sufficient cause for pride in the face of the whole world, will not be of much gain to Americanism in such a case. Because every true American is a true man, and the true man is he who loves the beautiful wherever it is found. Hence, the Syrian who is



ashamed to proclaim in public his racial origin will only give cause to America to be ashamed of him.

Respect yourselves, then, you who do not understand the true American spirit either in whole or in part.

And you may well be sure that if you are unable to feel proud in being Syrians you will be equally unable to feel proud that you are Americans.

(Meraat-Ul-Gharb, N. Y.,  
Feb. 14, 1928.)

#### PURITY OF LEBANESE BLOOD

\*\*\*There is a sprinkling of foreign blood in every nation, but the Lebanese are among those nations whose blood is purest, and this because of a manifest reason: They were never in the direct course of conquerors in their sweep over the country, but were always at a safe distance, entrenched in the fastness of their mountainous strongholds. Even Alexander the Great would not attack Lebanon because of the strength of character of its inhabitants and the resoluteness of their defense of their mountain. The Egyptians, Chaldeans and others followed the same course in the ebb and tide of their military movements and were satisfied at all times to seek their way along the shores, at the base of the mountain, refraining from any attempt at subduing the inhabitants by a determined pursuit to the summits.

(Al-Hoda, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1928.)

#### IN MEMORY OF WASHINGTON

\*\*\*We Orientals may well profit of the three outstanding characteristics of Washington: his loyalty, sacrifice and perseverance.

How salutary it would be for our leaders to forget everything but these three virtues and take them as their guiding torch in the service of the nation. Then it would be possible for us to point out the leader and say: "Behold the Washington of the East and the honest servant of his people," instead of simply saying: "This is the great leader, the pen and sword wielder... etc."

And well may our pseudo-leaders remember that it would have been possible for Washington to have himself declared king with the right of succession reposing in his heirs, but he resolutely refused, while they only use their avowal of patriotism as a means for obtaining appointment to office or seeking personal gain.

They would do well to learn a lesson in nobility of character from Washington when he wrote on the occasion of his election to the presidency: "I feel as though I were a condemned man being led to execution."

(As-Sayeh, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1928.)

#### THE CHRISTIAN POWERS FAVOR MOHAMMEDANS

Fidelity to truth compells us to state that the Christian powers, without exception, favor the Mohammedans and show extreme solicitude for their interests whether they be in Syria, Arabia, Russia, Afghanistan, or any other country.

Christians, therefore, who lull themselves into the belief that this or the other of the Christian Powers will give them protection and champion their interests are laboring under false hopes.

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own interests and will sell the cause of the Christians who place their hopes in her at the cheapest price when it comes to a question of self interest.

You say that the English protect the Christians. Pray, can anyone be blind to the partiality of the English to the Mohammedans? Who, then, furnished the Druzes with arms and ammunition in their last revolt? Would it have been possible for the Druzes to procure arms from outside of Syria had it not been for the helping hand of the British?

And the French. Do you think they are much better than the English in this respect? Study them in Syria and find out for yourselves how they sell a thousand Christians for the mere smile of a Druze or Moslem leader. Just see how they treat the notorious Druze rebel, Ali Oryan, while they turn a deaf ear to the piteous appeals of the Christian sufferers of Druze barbarities.

The same applies to all other Christian Powers, including Germany and Italy. Who can forget the stand Emperor William took with the Mohammedans? His words at the tomb of Saladdin in Damascus in which he challenged the right of Christians to remain in Mohammedan countries are history.

It behooves you, then, O Christians of Syria, to be courageous and firm in the defense of your national interests and to place no dependence upon this or that power because, as the adage goes, none can better scratch your skin than your own nail. And if you do not rise in defense of your own rights your cause will be surely lost and you will be facing certain destruction.

(Syrian Eagle, N.Y., Feb. 10, 1928.)

## OUR STAND IN THE CONTROVERSY

There remains no further excuse for us in maintaining silence. Al-Bayan is with the revolution on an uncompromising stand.

Why do some simple-hearted people want us to assume a passive attitude when we find anarchy rampant in the ranks of the revolutionary workers? There is not a mail from abroad but is filled with circulars from this or that faction each denouncing the other and blaming it for the continuation of the controversy.

Now that we have pursued these circulars and acquainted ourselves with the causes of dissension among the ranks of the Nationalists, we can categorically declare that the failure of peace negotiations must be placed directly at the doors of the Lutfallahs and their followers. We would not hesitate, therefore, to declare that complete separation from these people is imperative.

How long do those who counsel silence want us to maintain an impartial attitude? They would want us to suppress the facts from our readers for fear of arousing the ire of our enemies. This we shall not do in the face of all that we read in the Egyptian press of what is going on abroad. We declare ourselves unequivocally to be on the side of those whose say should be the first in such matters, and they are those who persevered in the field incurring daily danger and untold privations, and not those who live in Egypt and Palestine enjoying all luxuries of life from riding automobiles to sleeping in silken beds...

Is it possible that thousands of valiant patriots should be undergo-

ing the direst privations and the constant dangers of warfare in the desert, while others are safely lodged amid the luxuries of civilization, and that the latter should claim that the say is theirs and the shaping of national policies their privilege? And in face of all that they would have the brazenness of declaring that they have deposed the Syrian Delegation in Europe and cable the League of Nations that they would soon send to Europe a new delegation to represent the Syrian Nationalist Party?

This, indeed, is more than could be borne with honor. It is for this reason that we cannot agree with those who would have us maintain silence. And why the silence when news of the dissension between the Nationalists has covered the earth. To maintain silence in view of the situation would be construed as rank cowardice.

One of the most ridiculous acts of the Lutfallahs and their clique was their deposition of Sultan Pasha Atrash as leader of the Syrian revolution. In one of the statements given out by the Syrian Bureau of Information in Cairo, the agency of the Lutfallahs, we read the following: "The Executive Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary Party does not recognize a man by the name of Sultan Atrash or one by the name of Adel Arslan, nor does it recognize the existence of the so-called committee of the revolutionary high command."

In another statement the Bureau announces that it is in receipt of cable advices from Europe, America and Syria approving the action of the Committee in revoking the authority of the Syrian Delegation in Europe to represent it.

The facts of the situation are,

however, that a cable was sent to the Committee from Detroit conveying the decision of the New Syria Party in America to revoke its authorization of Toufic Yazegy to represent it before the Committee. (Yazegy was a delegate to the convention of the New Syria Party in Detroit in 1927.) While another cable communication was sent the Committee from Argentine forbidding Dr. Shahbandar from representing the Arab National Party of Argentine so long as there was division in the ranks of the Nationalists.

In view of these facts, we find ourselves unable to adhere to any policy of silence. We have seen enough acts of bad faith calculated to bring injury to the Nationalist cause. We therefore believe it is our duty to stand by the faction which is true to the cause and is prosecuting the struggle for the liberation of the country. We are with the delegation which for years has represented the cause in Europe competently and honorably and which is composed of Emir Shakib Arslan, Ihsan Bey Jabiry and Riadh Bey Sulh. We will not recognize any other which the Lutfallahs may appoint to enter into bargaining negotiations with France to the detriment of the country. The Lutfallahs have no object in view but to exploit the Revolution to their own benefit. They would give all the victims of the Revolution as a price for a throne in Lebanon.

(Al-Bayan, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1928.)

#### WHY IS IMMIGRATION RESTRICTED

\*\*\* It is not conceivable that the United States should harm itself in order to accommodate the immigrants who are flowing into it from



all parts of the world. Economic conditions in the country are not what could be desired, and to permit unrestricted immigration would only tend to make them worse.

The United States could not be held to blame for adopting this policy any more than England, France, Italy or Germany. We hear no voice raised in protest against any of these countries.

Is it not strange that the Syrian, for instance, should blame the United States for barring him from entry into the country and not blame his own government or that of the Mandatory Power which heaps indignities upon him and drives him out of his own country while letting down the bars and permitting the influx of shiftless strangers to come and establish permanent homes in the land, as is the case with the Jews in Palestine and the Armenians in Lebanon?

(Meraat-Ul-Gharb, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1928.)

#### AS IN THE EAST, SO IN THE WEST

Our steamer stopped at Charleston, W. Va., on its way to Jacksonville, Fla. Here the tourist is treated to a strange sight. No sooner does the ship weigh anchor than the longshoremen swarm about dancing the Charleston and vociferously asking for tips. When small change is thrown to them they scramble for it like a pack of street urchins. Some even go to dangerous limits in leaning over the dock to catch a piece of money thrown to them.

Nothing worse than this is seen in any of the ports of the East.

Where in the East poverty-stricken urchins clamor for the "bakshish" we find here in Charleston men who receive good wages for their day's

work stoop to this low level.

Though the subject may seem trivial, I feel I owe this in defense of the East against the preposterous representations of some American tourists and missionaries who feel no scruples in exaggerating what they witness of these superficial incidents in the East with the object of promoting their own personal interests and creating a market for their books.

Nations are not judged by their longshoremen and urchins, nor by their muleteers, camel-drivers and even dragomen.

Every nation has its intrinsic character which should be sought on its proper throne and in its native abode, and not in alleys and by-ways, or in the plains and the forests of the country.

(Al-Hoda, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1928.)

#### SELF-INTEREST VS. PATRIOTISM

The clift in the ranks of the Syrian Nationalists, as represented by the Executive Council of the Syro-Palestinian Committee, gives us a sorry lesson in patriotism as against self-interest.

Although we differed with this committee in principle, we had cherished the hope that this might be the forerunner of a new era in collective action among the Syrians.

It has now become evident that at the bottom of all these efforts there was the motive of personal benefit. Even Emir Shakib Arslan had proposed terms of a treaty with France which M. de Jouvenel thought preposterous. Now we are treated to some revelations which make us despair of any such hopes as we had previously cherished.

(As-Sayeh, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1928.)

## About Syria and Syrians

### SANTO DOMINGO SYRIANS WELCOME LINDBERGH

President of Republic Takes Part in  
Ceremony at the Syrian-  
Lebanese Club.

The Syrian-Lebanese colony of Santo Domingo feel justly proud of the distinction of being the only foreign group in that capital to have Colonel Chas. Lindbergh pay them a special visit at their club rooms while in the city, on Feb. 4. The description of the event as given by the secretary of the club and published in some of the Arabic papers of New York runs as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 3, word was received that Col. Lindbergh would take off from San Juan, Porto Rico, for Santo Domingo and immediately the capital was astir with preparations for his reception. He arrived on schedule and was welcomed to the city and country by the President of the Republic and high officials of the government.

The public celebrations staged for the visiting King of the Air were memorable. When he was escorted to the American Legation there was a procession in his honor in which thousands of young women took part in the most alluring costumes.

Next morning, Col. Lindbergh attended a special service at the old church of the Holy Virgin which was built during the time of Columbus, and from there he visited the great landmark which is said to have been built by Columbus himself for his residence. The rest of the forenoon

he spent visiting historical places of interest in the city and in the afternoon attended the military review held in his honor.

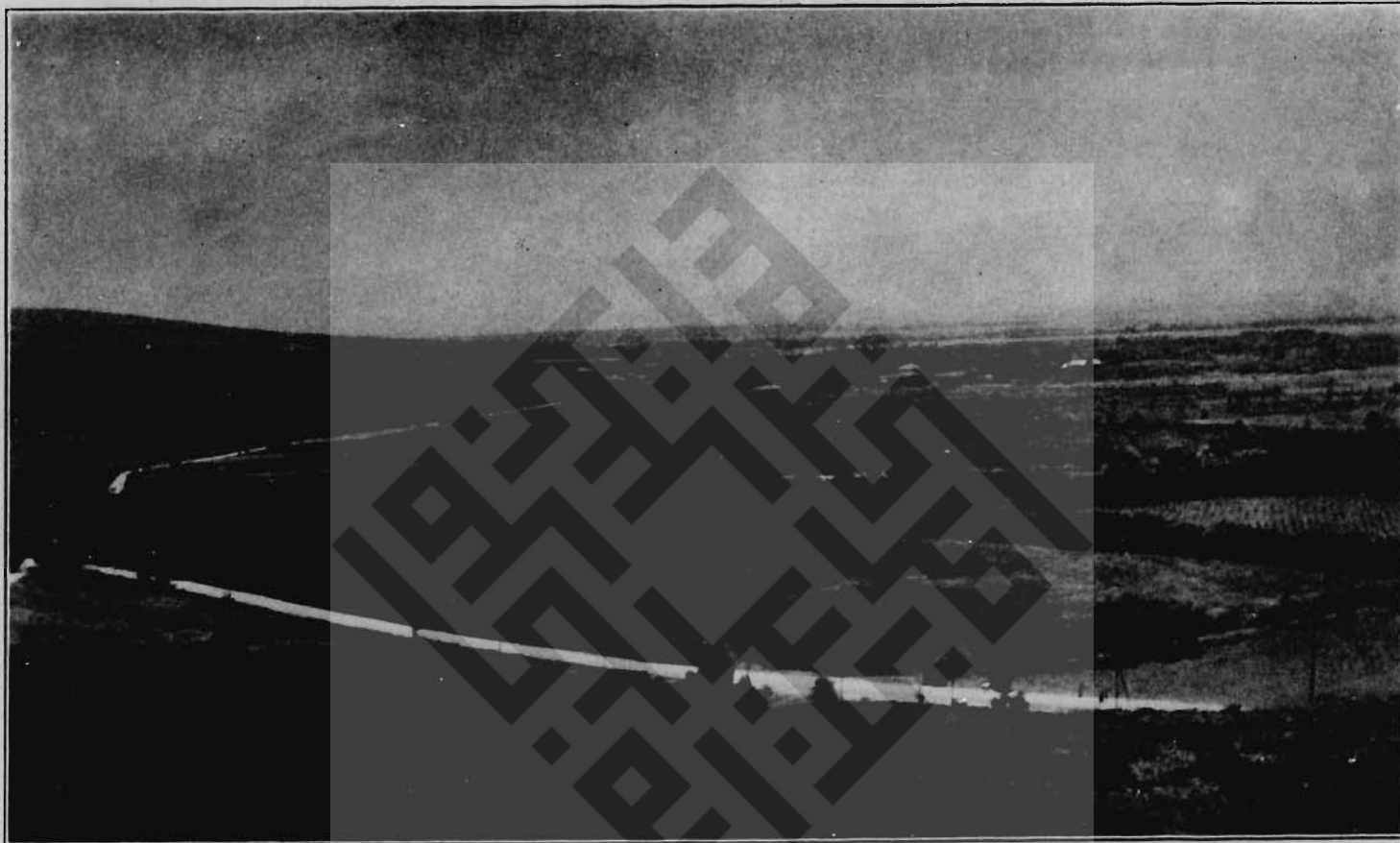
Nine o'clock in the evening was the time set for his visit to the Syrian-Lebanese Club. He was received at the door by the President, Mr. Naman Turk, and other officers of the organization and escorted to the main reception hall under a triumphal arch entwined with American, Dominican and Lebanese flags.

Ten minutes later the President of the Republic appeared in person unannounced and unexpected at the club rooms of the Syrian-Lebanese Club to the great embarrassment of the officers and members who were profuse in their apologies for not having received the President in proper ceremony. The President, however, said that he decided he would take part in the reception of the Syrian-Lebanese colony to Col. Lindbergh in testimony of his personal esteem both for the hosts and their guest.

The Club had a special medal struck in honor of Col. Lindbergh which was pinned on his breast by the president. The medal bore on one side the date of Col. Lindbergh's visit and on the other the official emblem of the Club, the Cedar of Lebanon. Accompanying the medal was a scroll testifying that the Colonel was elected an honorary member of the Club for life.

In reply to the speeches of welcome, Col. Lindbergh said that he regretted the limited time of his stay in the city but that he heartily appreciated the demonstration of af-

THE PLAIN OF AL-BEKAA, LEBANON



Favored by fertility of soil and climatic advantages as the most suitable section of Syria for dairy farming. (See Article on Development of Dairy Farming in Syria and Lebanon.)



## COSTES AND LEBRIX AMONG FRIENDS



Reception at the French Legation at Panama to the French World Fliers Costes and Lebrix by members of the Syrian-Lebanese colony of the city. Miss Blanche Emile Rizcallah (center) made the presentation to the fliers of the two gold fountain pens. To her right is Lebrix and to her left is Costes. Directly behind her is the French Minister. Others are a Syrian-Lebanese Delegation.

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fection shown him by the Syrians and Lebanese and that he would carry pleasant recollections of his visit to them all his life.

The Colonel later attended the official ball given in his honor by the government and on the morning of Monday sped away in the Spirit of St. Louis in the direction of Haiti.

### SYRIANS EVERYWHERE GREET FRENCH FLIERS

"You may quote us unreservedly that wherever we went we were received most cordially and enthusiastically by the Syrian-Lebanese colonies. We shall never forget their cordiality and their expressions of friendship and admiration on every occasion we met them. I should say that the Syrians and Lebanese were more than cordially enthusiastic — their receptions to us were simply marvelous."

This was the statement made by Captain Dieudonne Costes and Lieutenant Joseph Lebrix to a representative of The Syrian World who interviewed them upon their arrival in New York on their epochal air flight around the world. The Arabic newspapers of Brazil, Argentine, Uruguay, Mexico and other Latin American countries had published accounts of the reception of the Syrians and Lebanese of those countries to the French fliers, and although the Syrians of New York did not organize any public demonstration in their honor owing to the heaviness of their program in the city, The Syrian World sought to interview them to learn their impression of their receptions by Syrians and Lebanese in other cities. Their statement, reproduced above, given with all the fiery enthusiasm of the

French nature, bespoke their earnestness.

The French fliers were presented with a special medal struck in their honor by the Syrian-Lebanese colony of Mexico City, and were feted and given many tokens of love and admiration by the Syrians of other countries of South America where they made stops. In Panama they were presented with two fine gold fountain pens.

Syrian papers of South America state that had it not been for the limited time at the disposal of the French world fliers many more testimonials of honor and welcome would have been shown them.

### GIBRAN'S PROPHET A RELIGIOUS SERVICE

On Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, the church of St. Marks on the Bowerie in New York was crowded to overflowing for the afternoon services when, according to previous announcement, there was to be an enactment of the scenes of Gibran's book, The Prophet. The services were conducted by Dr. Guthrie, the well-known modernist of the Episcopal Church who has introduced in his program of church services classical interpretive dancing in defiance of his superiors. The actor impersonating the Prophet was Mr. Reynolds, while the leader of the group of female dancers was the daughter of Dr. Guthrie.

The Prophet is the best known work of our gifted author and artist, G. K. Gibran. It is ranked among the best sellers in works of its class. Rather, according to As-Sayeh, an Arabic newspaper of New York, it is considered by some to be second only to the books of revelation in

its spiritualistic, mystical and ethical teachings.

The large audience was visibly moved by the excellence of the interpretation, and at the conclusion of the performance Mr. Gibran received the hearty congratulations of his numerous admirers.

#### AMBITIOUS PLANS OF LEBANESE IN MEXICO

If the new program of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City is carried through, the Syrian-Lebanese colony of Mexico would achieve the greatest result of collective effort so far done by any similar community in America.

Al-Khawater, an Arabic paper of Mexico City, is authority for the statement that the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, following the induction into office of its new president, Mr. Jacob Simon, has announced that the main features of its new program are the following:

1—The formation of a special committee for the promotion and protection of Syrian-Lebanese commercial and industrial interests in Mexico.

2—The founding of a banking institution which would be affiliated with the National Bank of Mexico.

3—The publication of a daily newspaper in both the Arabic and Spanish languages to defend the Syrians and Lebanese in case of attack and promote a better understanding of them by the Mexican public.

The newspaper making this announcement adds that the new president of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in the city of Mexico is

a personal friend of Gen. Calles, President of the Republic, and one who enjoys the highest esteem of government officials and the better class Mexicans.

#### OLD TYRE SEEKS TO ENLARGE

Tyre, the one-time mistress of the seas and the commercial capital of the world in the days of the Phœnicians, seems now to have outgrown its old boundaries.

Situated originally on an island connected with the mainland by a narrow causeway, it cannot find sufficient room for expansion along modern lines within its ancient confines. The population, therefore, have signed a petition praying the Lebanese Government to sell their city the vast dunes along the shore which they would reclaim for building a new, modern city of Tyre, which would follow the lines of a Western land development project. They only ask that the price of the land be made reasonable inasmuch as it is now a total waste and of benefit to no one.

The Lebanese press of Beirut reports that on the 22nd of January a delegation representing the Tyrians waited on the President of the Republic as well as on the Minister of the Interior and asked that their demands, embodied in a petition signed by almost all the inhabitants of the city, be given favorable consideration.

At present the population of Tyre is about twenty thousand, but with the revival of civic interest and pride in their old city they expect that in a short time it will grow into a flourishing port of Southern Lebanon.



## NEW ENTERPRISES GAINING IN SYRIA

### Ancient Land Taking New Place as an Economic Factor in the Near East

A correspondent of the New York Times, writing from Jerusalem under date of Jan. 20, gives the following summary of economic conditions in that part of Syria covered by the French mandate.

Slowly but surely, he says, through the aid of Government and individual enterprise, Syria is taking its place as an important factor in the economic development in the Near East. New industries are being founded, and the roads and general condition of transportation are being constantly improved. Part of the fund formed from the revenue of customs, which had been set aside for the payment of the Ottoman debt, is now to be used to carry into effect and extensive scheme of public utility works, mainly road construction and irrigation. Good communication between the principal cities of the French Mandated States and Iraq, and repair of the already existing routes are included in the program of construction that is to be begun soon. Extensive irrigation schemes are also contemplated. It is expected that about 25,000,000 francs will be used for these construction and irrigation projects.

Bee-keeping is one of the industries that shows prospects of a bright future. As yet it is still carried on along primitive lines. Modern hives are practically unknown. Those in use are usually made of myrtle or basket work, and sometimes of clay. The largest yield of

honey is supplied from the section around Alexandretta. The rich melliferous flora of the country really permit of a much larger yield than is now being obtained, and with the gradual introduction of modern methods, a large field for export can be created.

It has been discovered that most of the Syrian wheats are of the hard grain varieties, and are therefore most suitable for the manufacture of macaroni. This industry was first begun in Syria as far back as 1875, when a small and primitive workshop was established at Beirut. The article produced was of an inferior quality. Today, factories for the manufacture of macaroni, vermicelli, and similar products exist in Beirut, Damascus and Aleppo. Although the local product cannot yet compare with the Italian, nevertheless the quality is constantly improving, and there is an increasing tendency on the part of residents to give preference to the local product.

What will serve better than anything else in bringing Syria to the fore is the increasing development of the Lebanese Summer resorts. Mount Lebanon has been found to be a most desirable Summer place, and each season brings more and more visitors, chiefly from Egypt and Iraq. A Government Tourist Development Committee has been appointed, which is looking into the matter of the improvement of conditions and facilities. It is estimated that about 12,000 tourists visited the Lebanon last Summer, and with the aid of an extensive campaign which is soon to be launched, it is expected that the results of the coming season will prove even more satisfactory.

### WHAT SYRIAN GIRL REQUIRES IN HUSBAND

Meraat-Ul-Gharb, an Arabic daily paper of New York, has been conducting a contest as to what the Syrian girl would require of a husband and what the Syrian man would require of a wife. On Feb. 24 the contest was closed and the winners announced, one from among the men and one from among the women. The winner in the choice of a wife declared his preference for the woman who would retain the modesty, virtue and home-loving qualities of the Eastern girl but who would at the same time be endowed with sufficient human qualities to make life worth living with her. His essay could not be described as containing anything radical.

But the girl adjudged the winner among the female participants in the contest was a certain Miss Najla whose reply savors more of a patriotic essay than a discussion of a purely matrimonial problem. The judges may have been swayed more by these considerations than by the intrinsic merits of the reply in arriving at their decision. It would be interesting to learn the real sentiment of our girls of the Syrian-American generation on such a subject, especially those who have been raised in purely American surroundings. Could it be possible that the prime qualifications of a husband to them would be those which the prize winner in the Arabic paper gives expression to?

Following are extracts of the conditions which this Syrian girl lays down as being of prime necessity in a husband:

1—I want him to be a Syrian for two reasons. First on patriotic grounds because my love for Syria

and my worship for the Arabic language would prevent my consenting to take in marriage any other but a Syrian even if I have to spend my whole life unmarried. Second, because the Syrian has the highest consideration for his honor and loaths by his very nature the extremes and excesses of Western civilization and the many pitfalls that are lurking in it. He would not, therefore, permit himself or his wife to follow the radical customs of this civilization which are bound to lead to unhappiness and perhaps separation.

2—I would require that he be a lover of Syria above all else with no object in mind other than to work for its progress and for its liberation. He should be alive to this prime duty towards his country realizing that she expects his assistance as well as that of all other Syrians.

3—He should be well educated, imbued with advanced ideas and conceding to the woman her inalienable rights. He must also be possessed of the poetic gift and loving music, although I would not require him to possess these gifts to the highest degree. I would by that be assured that he is of a mild and sweet temperament and endowed with a sensitive nature.

The young woman then goes on to enumerate further requirements in the man of her preference which are of a general character.

### LEBANESE PUBLICATIONS NUMEROUS

Official statistics disclose the surprising fact that in the small Lebanese Republic, with a population not exceeding six hundred thousand, there are no less than ninety peri-

odicals, or at the rate of one publication for about every 6,500 inhabitants.

In the city of Beirut, the capital, there are 17 daily papers, 23 tri-weekly papers and 21 monthly magazines, while in the rest of the country there are 17 weekly or semi-weekly newspapers and 12 magazines.

Statistics for other parts of Syria are not available.

Judging by these figures one would be inclined to believe that the Lebanese are voracious readers. The fact is that with the exception of a few old established newspapers all others are of minor importance commanding a circulation of hardly a thousand each. Many of those published outside of the capital are in the nature of country papers whose main dependence is on their circulation among the town emigrants abroad. And, may it be remembered, there are many unemployed literati who find the publication of a newspaper the easiest profession.

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#### MOSLEMS OF SYRIA EAGER FOR EDUCATION

How an American woman educator ingratiated herself with the Moslems of Damascus and established there a thriving school for girls is described by a correspondent of the New York Times in Jerusalem writing under date of Feb. 2. The American woman is Dr. Christina Essenberg who, according to the correspondent, in order to better acquaint herself with the home life of the people, for the first five months after her arrival she lived at the home of a prominent Moslem. Here she met most of the prominent

Arab families and made many friends. She also spent some time on a farm among the Bedouins, where she was received with great respect.

Since a Moslem woman cannot leave her home without the permission of her father, husband or other male relative, Dr. Essenberg realized that it would be necessary to win the favor of the men first. This she succeeded in doing. Her idea of opening an American school for girls was received with enthusiasm by the Arabs. The Moslem men were especially pleased to hear that the founder of the school had no intention of taking the veils from the women or of attacking their religion.

After long, patient waiting permission to open the school came. Although the rebellions of 1925-26 were a great drawback, because so many families fled from the city, nevertheless Dr. Essenberg stuck bravely to her post, and is now gaining rapid headway in her work. She already has an enrollment of more than 100 students.

She has been urged to undertake similar institutions in other towns of Syria and Palestine.

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#### END OF A HOAX

At last it would seem that the rumors concerning the existence of thousands of Arab and Syrian war prisoners in Singapore, under conditions said to be worse than slavery, have been put to rest. A reputable Syrian merchant of Homs who recently returned from Singapore ridiculed the rumors as being utterly without foundation. He based his assertion on personal investigations conducted by himself and other Syrian merchants of Singapore when the rumors reached them.



## EGYPTIAN MINISTER ENTERTAINS OFFICIALLY

### Syrian Violinist Plays Before Distinguished Audience in Washington.

The society columns of Washington and New York papers of Jan. 29 last carried long reports of the elaborate dinner-entertainment given by His Excellency the Minister of Egypt and Mme. Samy Pasha in honor of Vice-Pres. and Mrs. Dawes the evening previous, and at which the visiting Syrian violinist to America, Mr. Sami Shawa, gave selections of Oriental music which were declared to have met with much favor by the distinguished audience.

Besides the Vice-President and Mrs. Dawes, other guests were the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Curtis D. Wilbur; the Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. William M. Jardine; Senator and Mrs. Hiram Jones; Senator and Mrs. Royal S. Copeland; Senator Arthur Capper; Representative and Mrs. John Q. Tilson; Representative Edith Nourse Rogers; Representative and Mrs. Sol. Bloom; Lady Drummond Hay, of London; Mrs. Mayo; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Drury; Mrs. Fitzsimmons; the Secretary of the Legation, Ramses Bey Chaffey; the Attache of the Legation Mr. El-Eissy and Mr. Nour.

Mr. Shawa had been invited to other receptions of a similar nature where his recitals were highly appreciated as giving a most favorable interpretation of Oriental music.

Mr. Shawa has returned to Egypt the latter part of February, and it is expected that he will pay another visit to the United States within the present year.

## THE SYRIAN WORLD

### LEBANESE OPPOSE LEGALIZED GAMBLING

Strenuous efforts are being made by a group of financiers to obtain a concession for public gambling in large hotels at different Summer resorts in the mountains of Lebanon, according to the Jerusalem correspondent of the New York Times. It appears that several attempts have been made by a small group of Parliamentarians to pass a bill through the Lebanese Parliament for legalizing gambling, and on each occasion the bill has been defeated through the sentiment of the people.

Public opinion is now alarmed, owing to the attitude of some French high officials at the Haut-Commissariat, who, notwithstanding the denials of the French representatives at the League of Nations, appear to approve of the measure. Only lately the Secretary General, while acting as High Commissioner pro tem, as well as the French representative to the Lebanese Government tried to influence Parliament to make gambling legal. The matter is still pending, however, and with public opinion so strongly opposed to the plan that it is believed such concessions will not be granted.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GLOZEL CONTROVERSY

The controversy over the Glozel relics which are claimed to prove the discovery of the art of writing long before the times of the Phoenicians has, according to Paris dispatches of the latter part of February, caused so much bitterness among two factions of French savants that definite charges of fraud in the matter have been taken to court.

Dr. Felix Regnault, President of the Prehistoric Society of France, declared that the society has given him full powers to file the complaint on its behalf. The society has been discussing this action for the past three months, he explained, for since last August it has been fully satisfied that frauds were being perpetrated at Glozel. Finally, being anxious to check the discredit which discussions of Glozel were bringing upon French science as well as exploitation of the public, the society decided on action.

In his recourse to the law, Dr. Regnault, in company with seven policemen, raided the Fradin farm at Glozel and there discovered idols and other objects which had just come from the oven and were apparently made by a novice. They also came across a stone supposed to have Glozelian inscriptions but which the owners of the farm said had been used around the farm for knocking down nails...

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#### THE TRIPOLI-NACOURA R. R. IN LEBANON

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##### Will Supply Link for Direct Rail Communications Between Europe and Egypt

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The Lebanese Government has under advisement the construction of a Railroad to connect the city of Tripoli, in the north, and Nacoura which is one of the southern borders of the country below Tyre and only a short distance from Haiffa in Palestine. A group of capitalists known as the Sursuq-Lutfallah syndicate is negotiating for the concession of building and operating the new line which is considered a vital link in

rail communications in Syria, but it is stated that the French High Commissioner is reserving this right to the Lebanese Government in the hope of launching building operations immediately an agreement can be reached with the government of Syria on the question of allotment of costs which are to be drawn from the joint customs receipts of the two countries.

Late reports indicate that work on this important line will begin not later than Spring of the present year. It is being represented to the government of Syria that the new railroad will be the means of drawing a large number of tourists to the country who are now prevented from visiting it by lack of direct communications between Syria and Egypt and Syria and Europe. The line will extend along the coast of Lebanon and connect with the existing lines in Palestine and those of northern Syria, thus affording the means of continuous rail travel from Calais in France to Cairo, Egypt.

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#### NEW IMMIGRATION QUOTA FOR SYRIANS

President Coolidge submitted to the Senate on Feb. 27 revised figures for the "national origin" basis on which immigration quotas would be founded, beginning with July, 1928.

Under existing law, immigration quotas after that date are to be fixed according to tables worked out by a special committee under the supervision of Secretaries Kellogg, Hoover and James J. Davis.

Such "national origins" estimates were sent to the Senate in January, 1927, but, after criticism, were withdrawn and on Feb. 27 the President submitted the revised figures.

Under these figures the Syrian quota is raised from 100 to 125. Turkey's quota is raised from 100 to 233.

Palestine, although geographically a part of Syria, enjoys a separate quota, being given the minimum figure of 100. Previous to the World War both Syria and Palestine were cited under the general classification of Turkey.

Readers of *The Syrian World* will recall that the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Hoda*, published in New York City, had advocated that Lebanon be assigned a separate quota inasmuch as it is politically independent of Syria and should be recognized as such in making immigration allotments. *Al-Hoda* has also been agitating the question of the political recognition of the Lebanese Republic by the United States and other Powers. No announcement has been made lately by *Al-Hoda* of the result of its efforts.

It will be recalled that Mr. N. A. Mokarzel, editor of *Al-Hoda*, had entered into correspondence with the French Ambassador in Washington and also cabled the Lebanese Parliament on the matter of the recognition of Lebanon.

of Lebanon. The Lebanese press of Beirut reports that the cable had been received and ordered entered in the records of Parliament, but action on it had been deferred until the Mandatory authorities would have studied the matter.

#### SYRIA NATIONAL HOME OF ARMENIANS?

The Syrian press reports that the Commission of the League of Nations studying the conditions of Armenian refugees in Rumania, Bulgaria and Greece advises the removal of some fifty thousand Armenians to Syria, Palestine and Transjordan. A section of the Syrian press complains that Armenians already in the country are more than it can absorb with safety and asks if France and the League of Nations wish to make Syria a national home for the Armenians and bring on it additional economic complications to aggravate the conditions which have prompted a serious increase in emigration. The fear is expressed that the Armenians will soon become not only an economic problem but a political problem as well.

## Political Developments in Syria

### A New Syrian Government

A special cable dispatch to *Al-Bayan* of New York, organ of the Syrian Nationalist Party in the United States, carries the announcement that Sheikh Taj Ud-Deen Al-Husni, one of the prominent leaders of the Nationalist movement, has been appointed President of the State of Syria to succeed Ahmad Nami Bey, styled the Dmaad, or the

Sultan's son-in-law. The news was hailed in Nationalist circles as a signal victory for their cause, because of their opposition to the former president who was accused of being a tool in the hands of the French, while the new president is reputed to be a staunch Nationalist and one who had formerly refused the same office except on his own terms.



It is impossible at this moment to set down the exact conditions under which the new president accepted office. In Nationalist circles it is claimed that even since the time of the former High Commissioner, M. Henri de Jouvenel, he had held out for a free hand in the conduct of the government and for a complete consent by the French to the Nationalist demands. The latest mail arriving from Syria indicates that negotiations were going on between the former President, Ahmad Nami Bey and the French High Commissioner, M. Ponsot, but these negotiations were supposed to have for object only the formation of a new ministry whose personnel would be more acceptable to the Nationalists and at the same time be in sympathy with French policy. That the friend of the French should be removed altogether and replaced by one who is an outspoken Nationalist would indicate the advent of something radical in the policy of France in Syria.

The Syrian Nationalists naturally hail this as a signal victory to their cause, and judging by the comment of their organ in the United States, they welcome it as a sign of a new era of peace for Syria. This, after what the country has gone through during the critical period of the revolution, appears to be the paramount desire in the minds of the Nationalists, especially those who had been engaged in actual hostilities.

The new President is described as having a forceful personality who had long been active in the politics of his country. He is the son of the Sheikh Badr Ud-Deen Al-Husni, head of the Ulemas of Damascus. During the French bombardment of Damascus he opened his house to

refugees and did much to allay the fears of the population. It is recounted that during the World War, when Syria was held in the greatest suspicion by the Turks, Jamal Pasha, the Turkish military Governor, held the elder Sheikh Al-Husni in the highest veneration and respect and was in the habit of kissing his hand when greeting him. The younger Al-Husni, the new Governor of Syria, was then comparatively a young man, but even then he was of a rebellious character and would not approve of the Turk's policy as applied to his country. Jamal Pasha confided to some of his friends at the time that this young man would some day be the man of the hour in Syria.

If, according to present indications and to representations of Syrian Nationalists, the new President of Syria was able to dictate his own terms in accepting office, then the people of Syria are to have free elections for their National Assembly, complete independence in the conduct of government with France supplying advisers only on the approval of the National Government, and a promise by France to evacuate the country at the expiration of the treaty which would be entered into by France and Syria for a limited period of time. This is the gist of the Syrian Nationalist program, and how much of it has been granted Syria by France will be more fully known upon receipt of Syrian mail.

#### Nationalist Dissension.

The controversy among the executive committee of the Syrian Nationalist Party, with headquarters in Egypt, is waxing hotter than before. Now echoes of the differences have been brought to the attention

of the League of Nations by the act of the Lutfallah party which cabled the League that the Committee had deposed its former delegation in Europe and would appoint a new delegation to represent it in the near future. This came as the climax of the bitter controversy which all efforts to settle amicably failed. It was brought about by the accusations of some members that the chairman of the Committee, Emir Lutfallah, had entered into bargaining negotiations with the French to effect a compromise on the demands of the Nationalists. He is accused of aspiring to barter the interests of Syria for the throne of Lebanon. Lebanon, according to the defenders of Emir Lutfallah, could not be so tempting to a man of such aspirations, as the country has already committed itself to the republican form of government and is now struggling in the most approved democratic fashion for the balancing of the budget, its latest move in this direction being its reduction of the ministry from seven to three members.

As analyzed by some students of the situation, the Syrian Nationalists have now split into two distinct parties, extremists and moderates. The faction of Emir Lutfallah, counseling an amicable understanding with the French to win as much as possible of the Nationalist demands, are opposed by the other faction of the Executive Committee who would continue the struggle to the bitter end in spite of the fact that the armed revolution has been suppressed.

An interesting development in these internal differences is that the leaders of the armed forces of the revolution are now showing extreme bitterness towards those whom they

term political agitators and now claim to represent the Nationalist cause without incurring the risks of battle. In a manifesto signed by the Druze leaders and generals addressed principally to their supporters in America, they complain bitterly of the inaction of the Damascenes and inhabitants of other sections of Syria who are now claiming to speak for the Nationalists "while they are engaged in the pursuit of their business interests both in Syria and abroad and living in safety and luxury." The manifesto shows no hesitation on the part of the Druzes to claim all the credit for the uprising in Syria for themselves, stating that they were the ones to suffer in lives and property and that the Syrians would not have even attempted to make a show of force had it not been for Druze reinforcements. The Druzes, it is further stated, had destroyed large French armies attempting to invade their mountain before anyone in other parts of Syria rose to arms. They held out later in the face of great odds because they were loyal to their demands covering Syria as a whole. Even when France offered them advantageous terms following the battle of Mezra'a they turned them down because of their loyalty and single-mindedness. For these considerations they show bitterness towards the Syrian Nationalist leaders of Damascus who would divert the financial succor coming from abroad to helping the remnants of the Ghuta rebels instead of permitting such assistance to reach the real fighters who are now in exile in Transjordan. Many instances are cited where Druze revolutionists lost all their property and cattle and had to borrow money on their personal guarantee to purchase mounts and

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ammunition. This they mention as one of their principal grievances because of the dire straits to which they have been reduced.

On the face of it, this would indicate the appearance of a new element of difference between the Druzes and their Mohammedan allies in Syria. It would seem that the revolutionists of Syria are conducting negotiations with France on terms unacceptable to the Druzes and without consulting the desires of the latter. There is also a plain accusation of tampering with relief funds because the Druzes emphasize the fact that they have implicit confidence in their relief committee and would want their friends abroad to place similar confidence in it so that relief funds would be forthcoming uninterruptedly.

Incidentally, the Druzes state that their losses in battle during the revolution amounted to three thousand killed, not including women and children who met their death by causes directly resulting from the war. The number of those permanently disabled is also said to be large but their exact number is not given.

#### The Situation in Lebanon.

A stormy session was staged in the Parliament of Lebanon when the new ministry took office. Dr. Ayoub Tabet, Minister of the Interior, asked for a vote of confidence and approval by Parliament of the Ministry's program, and upon some members favoring delay in taking such a vote on the plea of requiring an extension of time for the proper consideration of the program, the minister threatened to resign and for three times in quick succession left his seat with the ministry and resumed his place as a plain member

of Parliament. Finally the President declared a recess during which hurried arrangements were made to insure confidence being granted the ministry.

Although accused of being a little too impatient, the new Minister of the Interior is, nevertheless, conceded to be a man of vigorous action and energy. He is on good terms with the press which lauds the measures he plans to introduce for the quick achievement of needed reform. He has already served notice that court calendars must be cleared within two weeks and invited the public to call directly to his attention any flagrant cases of delayed justice. He has also put an end to public begging in the city of Beirut and ordered all beggars from neighboring countries, such as Transjordan, Syria and Palestine, deported from Lebanon forthwith.

The country appears to be still restless under the frequent changes taking place in the form of government. No sooner was the amendment to the Constitution approved permitting the reduction of the Council of Ministers from seven to three than a movement was set afoot asking for the dissolution of Parliament in that it has ceased to be constitutional. Immediately a counter-petition was circulated accusing the makers of the first petition of pernicious motives and expressing confidence in the existing republican form of government and in Parliament. Some claim to see in this move the hand of some conspirators who aspire to become princes over Lebanon. The net result of these moves and counter moves has been to introduce a new element of uncertainty in the country which adds to the demoralizing upheavals and changes of the last few years.



### LATEST INFORMATION ON THE SYRIAN SITUATION

The latest mail reaching us from Paris furnishes partial details of the news already received by cable on the change of government in Syria. It would seem that conditions in the country have at last returned to normal. Ahmad Nami Bey, the Damad, as already stated, has resigned, being succeeded by Sheikh Taj Ud-Deen Al-Husni as Provisional Governor of the State of Syria, known in the political division of the country as the State of Damascus-Aleppo. The French High Commissioner, M. Henri Ponsot, issued a proclamation in which most of the nationalist demands are granted. He promises the early convocation of the National Assembly under a free electoral system and with full liberty to decide on the form of government for the country most acceptable to the electorate, providing it does not conflict with the duties of the Mandatory Government as entrusted to it by the League of Nations. At the same time, the censorship of the press is lifted, martial law abolished and a general amnesty declared, the High Commissioner explaining that the Mandatory Power had only awaited the opportune moment to prove to the people of Syria its good intentions by accelerating the return of normal conditions now that the armed revolt has been suppressed and peace established on a stable basis. While setting no definite date for the general elections, the High Commissioner assures the country that they will be undertaken as soon as the proper machinery can be set in motion.

There is, however, in the High Commissioner's proclamation a note of warning to the Syrians against abusing their present opportunities

and endangering thereby a future for the country full of promise. He specifically refers to actions which in their nature would be incompatible with "political realities".

The dispatches conveying this information were sent from Beirut on Feb. 17, and on Feb. 20 other dispatches reported that the new President of the Provisional Government of Syria had in turn issued another proclamation promising to hold the general elections for the Constitutional Assembly at the earliest possible date and that they would be conducted with the fullest freedom so that a constitution could be formulated which would meet the wishes of the country and be in accord with the obligations of the Mandatory Power. He also advocates the creation of an Interstate Commission to be charged with the regulation of the economic relations between the different States. The new Government is also in favor of abolishing the existing system of separate States and would replace it by a centralized system of government which would tend to foster a feeling of unity and cohesion. This, however, according to the proclamation, should be undertaken in the friendliest spirit with no resort to coercion so that the ultimate result may be achieved through complete willingness and conviction. The wishes of the population of the different States will be strictly respected and if a general referendum should prove abortive the Mandatory Power will be made the final arbiter.

The proclamation concludes with the expression of the hope that the Mandatory Power will enter into a treaty with Syria defining the mutual obligations of the two nations and setting a definite limit to France's occupation of the country.

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