

Jordania has been dropped from the argument that centres about the Balfour declaration. And so to-day there is involved an area of about 10,000 square miles, taking in the Jordan river and the Dead sea, right up to the north. The proposal made in 1922 for the partition of Palestine involved the creation of two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. There was to be given to the Jewish state territory comprising some 2,500 or 3,000 square miles. Excepted out of that territory was the great port of Haifa, the valley of Jezreel, which runs across the north of Palestine, and the river and valley of the Jordan and the Dead sea. So that the agricultural territory which remained was without any flow of water, other than what would be obtained from wells. Quite obviously, the area was so small and the resources so limited, particularly the resources of water, that the portion which remained was an economic impossibility. That is the proposal which is again rumoured as a possible announcement from the two governments.

I place myself, and the very large Jewish community of this country, in direct opposition to any such proposal. I hold in my hand excerpts from a brochure presented by the Zionist Emergency Council to the state department of the United States on the 7th day of this month. With the consent of the house I shall read some excerpts from this somewhat remarkable document. The committee says:

Partition is no new proposal, as far as Palestine is concerned. The Balfour declaration, with its promise of a national home for the Jewish people, was originally intended to apply to the whole of historic Palestine, including Palestine east of the Jordan, or Trans-Jordan as it is known to-day.

In September, 1922, however, the League of Nations, at the instance of the British government, excluded Trans-Jordan from this area. More than two-thirds of the territory originally designated as the Jewish national home was thus closed to Jewish settlement.

Further partition of Palestine proposed in 1937 by the Palestine royal commission recommended the establishment of a Jewish state on an area of about one-fifth of Palestine west of the Jordan. The remainder, apart from a small British enclave, together with Trans-Jordan was to become an Arab state. In parliament this proposal was severely criticized, among others, by Winston Churchill. No proposal for the future of Palestine can be acceptable to the Jewish people which precludes the possibility of large-scale Jewish settlement and colonization. But partition would be a severe blow to the economic welfare of the Jewish state. It would be detrimental to industrial expansion and would greatly limit the possibility of absorbing a large Jewish population.

So far as agricultural colonization is concerned, partition would be fatal to any important project for close settlement and

intensive development. For any conceivable partition of Palestine would necessarily separate the important water resources in the north from the irrigable land in the south which offers the greatest prospect of development.

Such a political separation of water and land would of course entirely preclude the development of Palestine in regional terms along these lines.

To-day Zionists are unanimous in their opposition to any partition. While some of those Jews who will survive the war will no doubt desire to return to their countries of origin, for very many emigration and in particular emigration to Palestine where alone they can claim to go as of right and will be welcomed by their own people, offers the best, if not the only prospect of a new and more hopeful future. In order to meet the needs of such a large-scale immigration it will be necessary to make use of the possibilities as a whole, and any reduction in the area of settlement would be regarded as introducing a corresponding limitation on the numbers who may thus be rehabilitated.

The matter becomes of very great national and international importance at the present time because of the situation in Hungary. Before the war, Hungary had a very considerable population of Jews who had lived there for many centuries. The educational institutions of Hungary were known world-wide. Many of the leading Jewish people in communities all over the world have found their origin in Hungary, and their education in the institutions of that country.

When the war broke out there were about a half million Jewish people in Hungary. As the war progressed, the population of Jews increased, because of refugees. The Jewish population increased to nearly a million. I believe the figure was 900,000. To-day the Jewish population of Hungary is about 400,000. Five hundred thousand Jewish people have disappeared. Where they have gone we do not know. But we do know that 100,000 of them were deported at one time to be murdered by the nazis in Poland. We know that through Catholic sources, and also from the Polish government in exile. We know it, too, because the Pope sent a message to Admiral Horthy, Hungarian regent and head of the Hungarian state, protesting and pleading that deportations cease.

Mr. Hull, Secretary of State for the United States, as late as July 14, 1944, stated that the entire Jewish community in Hungary faced extermination. He threatened punishment to the state of Hungary if it persisted in violation of the most elementary of human rights. Partly as a result of what was said by Mr. Hull, partly because of what was said by His Holiness the Pope, and to no small degree because of the menacing Russian army near the borders of Hungary, a message has been received by the International Red Cross from Admiral Horthy that he is prepared to give