

7. On the 1st March the High Commissioner reported that to fill some 700 vacancies, only sixty-eight Christian and Moslem secondary electors had been nominated. There were eighty-nine nominations in Jewish voting areas. It was his opinion that an important section of the population with certain leading men were desirous of taking part in the elections, but, owing to the propaganda of the Arab Congress, had up to that time been debarred. He had received definite assurances that, if a little time longer were given, this party and these men would co-operate in the elections. For this reason, and because the procedure in this first election was not fully understood by the population, he reported that the period allowed for the election had been extended until the 7th March, and recommended a further extension, by a total amount of two months, till the 30th April.

8. The Secretary of State approved this proposal (as he was empowered to do under Article 87 of the main Order in Council), but left it to the High Commissioner's discretion whether the total extension should be for two or three months. The High Commissioner adopted three months, *i.e.*, until the 31st May, 1923.

9. On the 9th March the High Commissioner reported the following results of nomination of secondary electors for the Legislative Council:—

Moslems	...	...	...	126	for	670	vacancies.
Jews	...	...	...	90	"	79	"
Christians	...	...	...	27	"	59	"
Druses	...	...	...	8	"	15	"

10. On the 10th March the High Commissioner reported that in Samaria and the Southern Districts there had been an almost complete boycott of the elections; also in Jaffa Town. The High Commissioner was opposed to forming twelve colleges from the available secondary electors to elect the full number of twelve members to the Legislative Council, as required by the Order in Council. Having regard to the small number of returns he suggested that five colleges only should be formed, *viz.*:—

- One Moslem College in the Jerusalem District
- One Moslem College in the Northern District.
- One Christian College for the whole country.
- Two Jewish Colleges for the whole country.

He recommended that the remaining seven seats should either be left vacant or preferably be filled by nomination. Lastly, he had under consideration, as a supplement to the Legislative Council, the formation of a large consultative Committee, which would "serve as a theatre for the discussion of important questions," and on which all sections of the population would be represented.

11. On the 10th March a District Governors' Conference was held in Jerusalem and unanimously confirmed the views of the High Commissioner.

12. On the 14th March the Secretary of State telegraphed that the High Commissioner's proposals would involve an amendment of the Orders in Council, and that he was not prepared to consider action on such lines until he was convinced the machinery provided under the Orders had finally broken down. He urged that the Legislative Council should be made up to full strength by the formation of the full number of Colleges, *viz.*, eight Moslem, two Jewish and two Christian, from the secondary electors actually elected; and he pointed out that there was nothing to prevent the Colleges from nominating persons in any part of Palestine. He considered that the amendment of the Orders in Council, within a few months of their promulgation, would be tantamount to a public confession of failure.

13. The final results of the primary elections were as follows: From the 436 voting areas in Palestine, nomination took place in 128 voting areas. Polls took place in twenty voting areas. The total number of secondary electors elected either with or without a poll were:—

Moslems	...	...	...	...	107	out of	670
Jews	...	...	...	...	79	"	79
Christians	...	...	...	...	19	"	59
Druses	...	...	...	...	8	"	15

Of the Moslem secondary electors, 59 belong to the Northern District and 36 to the Jerusalem District.

14. On the 17th March the High Commissioner reported that the intention of all secondary electors to co-operate in the election of members of the Legislative Council