

ARABIA

Except for a narrow strip around the coast, Arabia is largely unexplored. But undoubtedly in the interior there are oases with villages in them; and at certain seasons excellent pasturage for camels is found in many of even the driest parts of the country. Though Arabia is not a British possession, there is no doubt that it will be largely under the protection and influence of Britain, and that its trade will be chiefly with the British Empire.

PERSIA

Since the close of the war the relations between Britain and Persia have been greatly improved. Before this event Russia possessed the chief influence and trade with this country, which was divided into three zones—a northern one controlled by Russia, a southern one controlled by Britain, and a neutral zone between the two. The zone under Russian influence was much the largest, most populous, and most productive. With the collapse of Russia, however, her influence disappeared. Only quite recently, a treaty has been signed by Great Britain and Persia, which gives Britain control of the political, financial, and military affairs of that country. Undoubtedly the result of this treaty will be to make British influence paramount in Persia's economic and commercial affairs.

The total results, therefore, of the Great War, as far as the relations between Southern Asia and Great Britain are concerned, are evidently very remarkable. It is no exaggeration to say that almost the whole of Southern Asia is now either part of the British Empire or under its protection and influence. A stretch of territory from Palestine, Egypt, and the Sudan, through Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, Baluchistan, India, Burma, Malay,