

conducted constant feuds against one another and travel was dangerous and difficult. Toward the end of the last century the Turks began to attempt a more vigorous rule than they had previously exercised. The feuds between the villages were put down with great severity, and conditions became somewhat more peaceful. About the beginning of this century the Zionist movement began the planting of colonies in Jerusalem in an attempt to establish here a Jewish homeland. Excavations were carried on during the years before the war with considerable difficulty, due to the greed and lack of cooperation of the local people and to the arbitrary and unreasoning attitude of the Turkish rulers. During the war one of the principle elements of British strategy was the inciting of the Arabs throughout the Turkish empire to rise in revolt against their masters. In 1917 the British army swept north from Egypt across Palestine, driving out the Turks with terrific slaughter and great losses on both sides. In order to gain the active support of the Jews during the war, the British issued the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 stating that "(copy from Cook 36 -7 in the second draft)" This declaration promises that the British will do all in their power to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people but also declares that nothing shall be done that will interfere with the rights of other peoples in that country. The statement is very carefully worded so as to be capable of construction favorable to the rights, real or assumed, of whichever party uses it. Since the war the British have assumed the administration of Palestine under a mandate from the League of Nations. Considering the difficulties with which they have had to deal, their administration is quite generally regarded as a very excellent one. Its excellence becomes very apparent when it is contrasted with the French government of the neighboring province of Syria. While these governments are claiming to introduce modern ^{civilization} ~~advantages~~ to the regions they administer and while they are doubtless doing many things for the progress and well-being of the people, ~~whose government they administer~~, one feature of the present situation impresses me as a backward rather than a forward step. Before the war the whole territory from Constantinople to the Border of Egypt was under the Turkish government. One passport gave admission to any part of it and it was