

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E.OCT. 1920. Nos 165- 185. Contd.

....

As regards the question of subjects of Arab States, the file about the Bahrein Order- in Council is not here at present, so I cannot refresh my memory. My recollection, however is that the whole difficulty was about ~~W~~assawis and kataris from the mainland, i.e., Arabs of immediately neighbouring States. I do not think it was intended that Muscatis, Handramantis, Yemains, etc. should be handed over to the Shaikh's jurisdiction. I do not think the sultan of Muscat contemplates such a thing as this. Muscatis coming with claims to Bahrein generally get a letter from the Political Agent, Muscat, at the request of the Sultan. Bin Saud, in many of his letters to the Political Agent, asks the latter to look after his subjects, and apparently does not contemplate their being dealt with by the Shaikh. In the circumstances, I think that before handing over jurisdiction over Kuwaitis, Muscatis, Handramantis, Yemanis, etc., to the Shaikh, the latter should be asked to produce his agreements with the Rulers of these Places.

(2) It has hitherto always been recognized that the Arab representatives in the Majlis are appointed by the Shaikh, subject to the approval of the Political

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Agent as representative of the protecting power. I think this practice should be contained. The Political Agent would never disapprove of any suitable man, and the Shaikh has only to refrain from appointing thoroughly objectionable persons, to enjoy practical freedom from interference in the matter of his nominees to the Majlis. The procedure is recognized in the Order-in-Council and should, I think, be maintained.

(3) Zubarah- A note has already been submitted by the 1st Assistant Resident during my absence on tour which deals with the historical aspect of the question.

As far back as 1871 the Government of India instructed the Resident to restrain the Shaikh of Bahrain from interfering with mainland of Katr, on account of the doubtful character of his Alleged rights and influence, and this was repeated in 1875 (page 905, Gazetteer of Persian Gulf, and-foot note).

In 1895 the Al bin Ali occupied Zurarah and would actually have invaded Bahrain, if their fleet had not been destroyed by British gunboats (see pages 924- 925, Gazetteer of Persian Gulf.)

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In the circumstances, I think we should continue to refuse to pay attention to Shaikh Isa's pretensions, to Zubarah. I doubt if Zubarah is much good as a port, being very shallow, but it is probably as good (or rather as bad) as Dohah and Qjair, and I think the Political Agent, Bahrein, is quite right in his view as to the probable effect of the creation of a port there on Bin Saud and Shaikh Abdullah bin Jasim.

In conclusion, I may add that I agree with the Political Agent in thinking that recent utterances by President Wilson have had effect on Shaikh Isa and Shaikh Abdullah as on so many other people all over the world. Shaikh Abdullah's recent visit to Europe has doubtless increased Shaikh 'Isa's idea of his own importance.

Copy of Bahrein with reference to his memorandum No.176-C.E.-3, dated 6th December 1919.

Enclo. IV. to Prof. No.173.

Memorandum No.9-C, dated Bahrein, the 17th Jan.1920.
From-MAJOR H.P.P.DICKSON, C.I.E., Political Agent,
To-The Deputy Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

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I beg to forward herewith the attached three letters,

one from myself to Shaikh 'Isa regarding the convening of

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECT.E. OCT.1920, Nos.169-85. contd.

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the Majlis al Urfi, "B" and "C" from Shaikh 'Isa to myself to "A", also some notes on a conversation I had on the subject with Shaikh Abdullah.

(2) If you recollect, I consulted you on the subject Majlis al Urfi when you were last here, and my letter "A" was written more or less on the lines you suggested it should taken. Actually the Majlis came to a bad end just before Captain Bray, M. C., went home with Shaikh Abdullah. It appears that Shaikh 'Isa dismissed a prominent member without consulting the Political Agent. As this was contrary to the clause on the appointment, etc. of Majlis-al-Urfi as laid down in "Order-in-Council" Captain Bray, M.C., took objection and refused to recognize the existing Majlis until Shaikh 'Isa gave an explanation of his action. This Shaikh 'Isa never did, and the Majlis dissolved of itself. Captain Bray, M.C. I understand, would have taken the matter further had he not suddenly left Bahrein.

(3) My letter "A", as you will see, is an endeavour to get the Majlis going again. Shaikh Isa evades the point and brings up the subject of Shaikh Abdullah's visit to London and his petition to Sir Arthur Hertzell. He further says that he is sending his son Abdullah to talk to me about the matter.

FOPE.POLL.DEPTT. SECT.E. OCT.1920, Nos.169-85. contd.

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(4) The day following that on which Shaikh 'Isa wrote his letter "B" Shaikh Abdullah and I had a four hours' conversation which covered a wide range of subjects. I will endeavour to give a short precis of what took place, as it will better convey the situation to you as I see it here. The talk was friendly and carried on without the slightest show of restraint. I may state for a short, that I have, of course, not divulged to Shaikh Isa the fact that I knew of his petition in London sometime back.

(a) Firstly, Abdullah stated his father had not given an answer about the Majlis al Urfi as he was anxious to get an answer to his proposals as put forward in London. I answered that Shaikh 'Isa need not allow the delay in Government's reply to effect the immediate appointment of the Majlis as ordered under Part I. paragraph 4 (Majlis-al Urfi) order in Council. I emphasised that until an answer came from His Majesty's Government, Shaikh 'Isa was expected to abide by existing orders. Later on, if a change was approved of the necessary alterations, in the appointment of the Majlis could easily be made. Abdullah saw my point and promised to get Shaikh 'Isa to appoint the Majlis at once. (This is at the time of writing has not taken place).

...

(b) Next Abdullah asked me boldly my opinion on Shaikh Isa's letter to Sir Arthur Hertzell and specially my ideas on the four proposals put up. He stated Shaikh Isa was anxious for an answer from Government, yet at the same time was nervous as to the nature of the reply he would get. He feared Government might be angry. The actual proposals did not matter much so long as His Majesty's Government were not annoyed with him. I asked Abdullah if he wanted my opinion as a friend or as Political Officer. He hastened to say as a "friend". I told him I thought the letter to Sir Arthur Hertzell had much better have never been written, it was an unwise document and raised certain awkward questions, the answering of which might only result in a rebuff of Shaikh Isa.

(c) Regarding proposal 1.- I said things had been working satisfactorily up to date. It was a mistake to get a definite ruling from Government. The proposal would certainly bring forth a ruling in the matter. Shaikh 'Isa's proposal actually meant that he wished to have jurisdiction over the subjects of the Chiefs of Nejd, Koweit, Oman, Zanzibar,

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Hadramant, Yemen, Hejaz, when they were in Bahrein. Government could never agree to this and might possibly turn round and grant him no rights whatsoever over foreign Arab subjects. Here Abdullah hastened to inform me that Shaikh 'Isa referred only to the inhabitants of Hassa, Qatif and Qatar proper not further afield. I pointed out that by unofficial arrangement he was already allowed control over the people of these places, therefore why raise the question at all. Abdullah had nothing to say to this but shake his head.

The net result of my talk over proposal I showed me that Shaikh 'Isa would be quite satisfied if he definitely were given control of the inhabitants of Qatif, Qatar and Hassa (not Nejd) who visited Bahrein. I personally see no great harm in conceding this much, but I consider it would be the greatest mistake in the world to put the subjects of Koweit, Oman Hadramant, Yemen, Hejaz Zanzibar, etc. under his control. We should only lay up for ourselves much trouble with the rulers of those places themselves and their subjects here the latter even now most vigorously insist that they come under the protection of the British Agency. Definite orders on the subject, I think

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should be given Shaikh's Isa early.

(d) Regarding proposal II.-I pointed out the sole object of the authorities who drew up the "Order in Council" was that the foreign element should be fairly represented on the Majlis al Urfi. That the Majlis al Urfi was intended to try mercantile cases chiefly, of which the majority concerned foreign merchants, that we should only get overwhelmed by appeals from the Indian Foreign Committee, should a purely Bahrein * Mejlis sit.

*Baharna.

In fact, it would be impossible to send

Indians and Persians to such Majlis, they would straight away refuse to go there. I think Shaikh Abdullah saw my point. He appeared in the end to be end to be quite willing to let things remain as at present and as regulated by "Order in Council". He appeared to dread such a thing as an appeal of an Indian Merchant to India, against the decision of his father's Bahrein * Majlis. I suggested this as a possible contingency.

(e) Regarding proposal III.- "Zurarah". I pointed out the unlikelihood of His Majesty's Government's ever even considering such a question. I should Abdullah

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how such a course would at once result in trouble with the ruler of Qatar and Nejd, and would not only be looked upon as a piece of great injustice by those two rulers, but would be most vigorously opposed on the score of justice, treaty and trade. To my surprise Abdullah admitted the entire force of my remarks, and then calmly turned round and said "we do not really want 'Zubarah' so very much, but we do want to stake our claim on the mainland, and get a port there in order that should Bin Saud open a port at Al Jubail was an ideal place for a port, there being good deep water at all tides close in to the shore. That should such port be opened, then Bahrein was doomed for all its present trade with the mainland would go direct by steamer to the new port and leave Bahrein out. If, on the other hand, Zubarah were in Shaikh Isa's hands this could not happen. Shaikh Isa would gladly never mention Zubarah again, if His Majesty's Government promised not to allow Bin Saud to open a port at Al jubail. This statement of the case came as a surprise to me. Abdullah clearly showed that Zubarah was not after all so very much sought after by Shaikh Isa, but was only asked for as a means of bargaining with Bin Saud, Should the latter attempt to develop Al Jubail. The point is very interesting and gives us a reasonably powerful weapon, should we ever want to bring pressure on to the Ruler of Bahrein.

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(f) Proposal IV, I told Abdullah, was a ridiculous one to have made. Bahrein existed because of our protecting hand over her, we prevented outside enemies from seizing and devouring her, Her external relations were entirely in our hands, and as such all matters concerned herself and Government must go through the ordinary channels. I explained in detail the meaning of the term "chain of responsibility", and further pointed out that Turkey failed because her rulers had always listened to complaints of people over the heads of properly constituted local authority. Abdullah said "How can we, for instance, complain against a harsh Political Agent?" I showed how easily this could be done. "Well," he said "that is all my father was thinking about when he asked me fourth proposal in London."

The meeting ended with Abdullah, Requesting me to write and ask that an early answer be obtained from His Majesty's Government to the four proposals made. He also asked that I would write and put before higher authorities the conversation I had with him, and the real meaning underlying each request. In other words, I gathered Shaikh 'Isa was rather anxious to back out of what he had said. He thinks he has made a mistake and is afraid of getting into hot

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E. OCT. 1920. NOS. 169- 185.Contd.

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I do not, for a moment, think that Shaikh'Isa will mind if not a single point is conceded him. In fact, knowing Shaikh 'Isa's and Abdullah's attitude now, I strongly advise that proposals II, III, IV, V, be rejected and that proposal I only be considered in modified form. I should suggest that the people of Hassa proper, Qatif and Qatar only, when present on the island be put under his control, no one else. I suggest that early orders be passed to this effect.

After saying, good-bye to me, Abdullah sent me a very friendly message, saying that now he knew I was a true friend and adviser, because I had spoken straight and frankly and that is what Shaikh'Isa wanted all along, even in London he himself has believed it to be an unwise move to put forward the proposals made, but he had been believed it to be an unwise move to put forward the proposals made, but he had been advised, as also had his father, by "Ah al gharadh" (i.e., people who had an axe to grind).

Copy forwarded to the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

ARABIA SERIES, PART IX.

ADMINISTRATION OF ARABIA SITUATION IN ARABIA. AFFAIRS OF BIN SAUD, KING HUSSAIN AND BIN RASHID. SUPPLY OF ARMS TO BIN SAUD. SURRENDER OF MEDIANA. IKHWAN MOVEMENT SITUATION IN KHUPMA. WITHDRAWAL OF KOWEIT BLOCKADE.

(Notes in the General Staff Branch).

(Vide Foreign Secretary's Note, dated the 24th September 1918, on page 42, (S.W.Dec.19, Nos.191-317).

We agree, and are not prepared to recommend supply of troops from India, until General Officer Commanding, "D", has satisfied us that he is unable to furnish them.

G.W.M.KIPKPATRICK, -27-9-18.

The above views are concurred in by Army Department.

A.H.PINGLEY, - 30-9-18.

Foreign and Political Department.

Notes, page 47, S.W.Dec.19, Nos.191-317, may be read.

The enquiries made in the Secretary of State's

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECT.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

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telegram*, dated the 19th September 1918, have been

*Pro. No. 304, Ibid. replied to and solved by the

+Pro. No. 306 & 311, Ibid. Officiating Civil Commissioner

in his telegram+, dated the

22nd and 26th September 1918. In the circumstances we

need say nothing.

2. The Officiating Civil Commissioner thinks † that

‡ Pro. No. 311, S.W.

Dec. 19, Nos. 191-317.

C.O.H.F., -2-10-18.

the blockade of Koweit will

shortly be rendered unnecessary.

We may perhaps wait a few days for this proposals, and if not received make enquiries in the matter.

The officer who is superintending the blockade is also acting as Political Agent in Koweit, so there is no waste of material and we need take no action at present.

W.G.NEALE, - 3-10-18.

I have discussed with Chief of the General Staff.

We may wait and see what Secretary of State says in answer to Baghdad's telegram.

A.H.GRANT, - 3-10-18.

Question of the supply of the Arabia Series to the Political Officer at Basrah. - On the 24th October 1917,

FOPE.POLL.DEPTT.SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

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*S.W. March 18 Nos. 1-169, the Political Resident in
@Ibid (Pro.No.167.) the Persian Gulf requested*
That his Deputy at Basrah
may be supplied with a copy of the Arabia Series. The
†Ibid, (Page 84 of Notes.) requeste has been complied
with from the 1st November
1917 for the reasons stated in
the Office Note † of the 29th
October 1917.

2. Now that the Deputy Civil Commissioner is working**

** Telegram No.7725, dated at Baghdad, the last lot of
15th September 1918. Arabia Series (Pro.Nos.67-76)
(In Aden administration file.) was not sent to him. In his
telegram of the 15th September

1918, the Political Resident, however, requested that
correspondence sent to the Deputy Civil Commissioner,
Basrah, may in future be sent to the political Officer,
Basrah.

3. We do not know who the Political Officer is, and
accordingly until Colonel Wilson raises the question, the
Political Officer may not be supplied with the Arabia Series.
The papers are generally very confidential and Basrah only
got them as a special concession. The object is restrictio
in circulation of such confidential papers.

C.O'H.T.2 - 3-10-18

W.G.Neale, -4.10.18.

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FORE.POLL.DEPT".SECT.E.JUNE,1920, Nos. 1-152, contd.

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Pro.No.1

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, DATED
THE 1ST (RECEIVED

2ND) OCTOBER 1918.

Approves of Mr. Philby going on leave. Says that Egypt will be
asked to recommend a

SUCCESSOR.

Approves of the meeting between Bin Saud and King
Hussain being postponed.

Pro.No.2

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA*,
DATED THE 1ST (RECEIVED

2ND) OCTOBER 1918.

Enquires whether there is any foundation for the suggestion
that the Turks have worked up the Ikhwan movement among the
subjects of Bin Saud.

Pro.No.3.

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
DATED THE 2ND (RECEIVED 3RD) OCTOBER 1918.

Rifles for Bin Saud. Says that the Military authorities
maintain their objections to replacement of the
1,000 rifles,

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. OCT 1920. NOS. †- 152. Contd.

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Pro no. 4

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER BAGHDAD,
No, 8314, DATED THE 3RD (RECEIVED 4TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that there is no evidence that the Turks are responsible
for the present Ikhwan movements.

Pro Nos. 1, 2 and 4 are for information only. With
regard to the Akhwan movement, it may be remarked that the
Sherif was guilty of interfering with the religious liberty
of the people of Khurma, who have always been Wahabis and
all Akhwan.

2. With regard to Pro No 3, the decision may be
cited as drastic and a somewhat hard fulfilment of our
pledges due to recent successes. Bin Saud has, however a

† Colonel Wilson expressed himself a strong supporter
very strongly in Pro No. 297- 301 S.W. in Colonel Wilson's
Dec 19, No. 191- 317, † Serial no, 40 and we may wait
Part VII. S.W. Oct. 1-170 and see if he
accepts the decision of the Secretary of State. It is a
slight revision of our policy advocated † on the 5th January
1918, that the total elimination of Ibn Rashid from Arab
politics would be an embarrassment, where as his retention
would assist in the maintenance of the balance of power
between Bin Saud and the Sheriff. Hence the Civil Commissioner
should keep Bin Saud in play by presents of money, assistance

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. ~~File~~ 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

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in arms now being given very sparingly. The Government of India have always maintained that the establishment in Arabia of two Powers mutually Hostile, to both of whom we have given pledges of support, should be avoided.

Colonel Wilson's views should be awaited before considering whether anything further need be said to the Secretary of State.

3. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O.H. T., - 4- 10-18.

We may wait as proposed.

W.G. NEALE, - 5.10-18.

Yes. But I should like to be referred more specially to the papers re the "Akhwan movement".

A.H. GRANT, - 6-10-18.

Pro No 5-

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,

DATED THE 2ND (RECEIVED 3RD) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that Cairo has been instructed by the Foreign Office to take such action as is desirable to restrain all further aggressive action, in the nature of collection taxes, By King Hussain.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E.JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

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For information. Usual routine action will be taken.
Central Publicity Bureau may see Pro No. 7.

C.O.H.F., - 6-10-18.

1. Await the telegraphic report of the congratulatory address.
2. Put up the telegram about Dr. Weixman with the main file, when it gets back.

W.G.NEALR, - 6-10-18.

Pro. No 9

ENDORSEMENT FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 19419-9-2, DATED THE 16TH SEPTEMBER (RECEIVED 4th
OCTOBER) 1918.

Forwards copy of Mr. Philby's letter expressing appreciation
of the action taken by the British High Commissioner in
writing to King Hussain about the letters sent by Emir
Abduall to two Ateiba Sheikhs.

Pro. No 10.

LETTER FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 19403-9-32, DATED THE 16th SEPTEMBER (RECEIVED 4th
OCTOBER) 1918.

FORE. POLI. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

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Forwards copies of correspondence which has passed regarding the desire of Bin Saud to be represented at Jubair by an agent.

Pro. No. 11

MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 19471- 9-2, DATED THE 17TH SEPTEMBER (RECEIVED 4TH
OCTOBER) 1918.

Relations between Bin Saud and King Hussain.

Pro No. 12.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8362, DATED THE 4th (RECEIVED 5TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Communicated copy of the telegram to Najaf acknowledging the congratulations of the recent victories of the British and their Allies.

Pro No. 13.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8430, DATED THE 6TH (RECEIVED 7TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that the contents of his next telegram is an extract from

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920.NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

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the fortnightly report under issue to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. Adds that the Ministry of Information may be able to use it.

Pro. No. 14.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8431, DATED THE 6TH (RECEIVED 8TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Gives information regarding the Durbar of Shaikhs held by the General Officer Commanding-in Chief.

Pro. No. 15.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8474, DATED THE 8TH (RECEIVED 9TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Requests that the attention of the Central Publicity Board may be drawn to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's At Home at Baghdad.

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Prov No. 16.

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT, No
921- M., DATED THE 5TH (RECEIVED 7TH) OCTOBER 1918.

States the alterations which have been made in the communique
from London, dated the 6th October 1918.

Pro. No. 17.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8417, DATED (AND RECEIVED) 6TH OCTOBER 1918.

Reports that Mr. Philby states he is leaving to
join Bin Saud.

For information. Routine action will be taken later.
We await Colonel Wilson's views on the last reference from
His Majesty's Secretary of State for India respecting the
return of Mr. Philby and the issue of arms to Bin Saud.

G.O.H.F., - 7- 10- 18.

W .G. YEALE, - 8- 10- 18.

A.B. GRANT, - 8th 10- 18.

Pro. No 18.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT.E. JUNE. NOS 1-152. Contd.

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No, 6097, DATED THE 8TH (RECEIVED 9TH) OCTOBER 1918.
Reports on the traffic in arms and ammunition from
the Hedjaz.

Pro. Nos. 9, 10, 11, 16 and 18 are submitted on the
file. Pro. Nos. 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15 dealing the Durbar
held at Baghdad and other matters for propaganda purposes
have been removed the present from the file and are being
submitted separately. Central Publicity Board will have
to see them. Pro. No. 17 has already been dealt with.

2. The receipts are for information only. The
communique referred to in Pro No. 16 has, however, not
yet been received. We may ask for it. Draft submitted.

3. The General Staff Branch (Army Department) may
see Pro No. 18. It indicates a cause of some anxiety. It
is to be hoped that Cairo will take early action.

4. Secretary's note, dated the 6th October 1918, will
be noted on return of file.

5. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O.H.T., - 10-10-18

W.G. NEALE, - 11-10-18.

The communique referred to appeared as Renter's

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE . 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

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telegram, 69, Bombay, Dated 8th October, published here on 9th October. It appeared without the amendments made in Egypt. No action is necessary.

A.H. SPATT, -11-10-18.

General Staff Branch (Army Department).

Central Publicity Board and Army Department may see pro. No. 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15 unofficially.

C.O.H.T., - 10-10-18.

A. H. SPATT, -11-10-18.

Central Publicity Board.

Army Department.

(Noted in the Central Publicity Board.)

(Vide Foreign Secretary's note, dated the 11th October 1918, on page 4, ante.)

A news article may be prepared on the subject of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's recent Durbar at Baghdad, as desired by the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

L.C. STEVENS, - 14- 10-18-

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FOPE. POL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS 1- 152. Contd.

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W. H. V. (INCPM), 14- 10-18.

Article herewith. It should go to Deputy Chief Censor and Foreign and Political Department for approval before issue.

L.F. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, -15-10-18.

For favouring of censoring please.

L.C. STEVENS, - 15-10-18.

Deputy Chief Censor.

No censorship objection and no objection in M.O.3.
Passed to Foreign and Political Department.

C. KAVE, - 16- 10- 18.

Deputy Chief Censor.

Foreign and Political Department.

Pro No. 18 a

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER IN
MESOPOTAMIA, NO 8604, DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH)
OCTOBER 1918.

Refers to article in the "Baghdad Times" of the 31 September
1918, regarding the Durbar at Baghdad.

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The telegram* cited(8184) is presumably the message †

*In telegram from Baghdad, No, 8603, from Civil
dated the 11th October 1918. Commissioner of

Pro No. 15. the 8th October
1918(8474), as the reference to the "Baghdad Times" gives
the subjects.

2. We may accept the draft article by the Central
Publicity Board, but advise a less prominent headline.

3. In returning the papers to the Central Publicity
Board their attention may be drawn to the telegram added
to file and the article in the issue of "the Baghdad Times"
of the 21st September 1918. They may be asked to place a
copy of their article on our file when returning it to this
Department.

C.O.H.T., - 17-10-18.

From the point of view of this Department the draft is
unobjectionable.

DEWIS BRAY, - 18-10-18.

Secretary, Central Publicity Board.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E.JUNE.1920. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

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Mr. Rushbrook Williams may see, A copy of the "Baghdad Times" has been placed on the file.

L.C.STEVENS, -- 11-10-18.

If Foreign and Political Department and Deputy Chief Censor have no objection to the Draft, it had better issue.

L.F.RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, -22-10-18.

Apparently the Deputy Chief Censor has no Objection, but Mr. Bray would probably care to see.

L.C.STEVENS, 22-10-18.

Foreign and Political Department.

I' am afraid I don't understand.

2. As a member of the Publicity Board I took the trouble to vet the draft from the point of view of the Publicity Board in the attached note. As far as I can make out no attempt has been made to carry out my suggestions, and the draft is returned to me with one alteration only-the omission of a palpably redundant sentence. As far as I can make out no steps are being taken to republish the valuable account in the "Baghdad Times" of the Durbar. And yet the speech of Sheikh Mehda is worth all the trivialities of the draft put together for propaganda purpose.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS 1-152. Contd.

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3. Perhaps the explanation is that the revised draft has been mislaid. If so, and if it is generally on the lines of my suggestions, the sooner it issues the better: I don't want to see it again. But if for some reason, the old draft was intentionally returned for publications unrevised and without the "Baghdad Times" matter, then I confess the position is unintelligible; and I must ask either (i) that a revised draft should be prepared and issued at once, or (ii) that these papers be put up at the next meeting of the Board.

DENYS BRAVY-- 22-10-18.

To save time, may I suggest that the draft is unnecessarily stodgy and in parts trivial. I have pencilled my rough ideas on it. Would it not be better to take the account in the "Baghdad Times" prune if of obviously dull matter, and add some (but not all) of the matter in the draft winding up with the congratulations and rejoicings over Bulgaria as a climax?

DENYS BRAVY, - 18-10-18.

Central Publicity Board.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

....

I am very sorry there seems to have been a misunderstanding. The original draft was sent to Mr. Bray before issue, in order that he might see whether, from the point of view of the Foreign and Political Department, there was any objection to it. He pronounced it unobjectionable. Then in a private note he proceeded to criticise it severely, and to suggest the inclusion of a great deal of new matter.

I made one alteration in deference to his suggestions, but considered that if the new matter were inserted, it would swell the article far beyond the limits which are acceptable to the new papers. The new matter would, I thought, make an excellent supplementary article.

The point I should like to make clear is that the original article was not circulated for comment to Mr. Bray as a member of the Board; nor in his objection to it did he request that it should be so circulated. After the alteration referred to, the article was once more sent to Mr. Bray, in order to find out if he carried his criticisms to the length of objecting to its publication. He thereupon sent it back with a long note, giving me the alternative (a) of rewriting the article in accordance with his own suggestion (b) of having the matter brought before the Board. Under these circumstances, I can only refer the matter to the Resident for orders.

- 19 -

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E. JUNE.1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

....

Hon'ble the President, Central Publicity Board, for
orders.

A revised article is sent herewith for approval.

L.C.STEVENS, 26¹/₂ 10. 18.

Foreign and Political Department.

Just what is required I think . I've pencilled a suggestion
or two.

DENYS BRAY, - 26-10-18.

Central Publicity Board.

As this article has been entirely re written, it is
submitted to the Deputy Chief Censor for censoring, please .
It is regretted that the first article was submitted causing
unnecessary work.

L.C.STEVENS, 26- 10- 18.

Deputy Chief Censor,

Passed for publication,

G.B. SANFORD, - 28-10-18.

for Deputy Chief Censor.

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FORE. POLI. DEPTT. SECT.E.JUNE.1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

....

Printed copies have been received and copies are
being issued to the usual people.

L.C.STEVENS, - 2-11- 18-

No.69.

Central Publicity Board.

For favour of publication and comment.

A DURBAR AT BAGHDAD

APAB SHAIKH AS GUESTS.

An interesting account of a Durbar at Baghdad on the 17th September by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief appears in a recent issue of the "Baghdad Times". All the important tribal Shaikhs in the country, as well as the chief citizens of Baghdad and the consular corps had been invited to attend. Guards of honour were provided by Indian Cavalry and infantry units, and the gardens in which the Darbar was held was decorated in a manner befitting the occasion.

The french and the United State Consuls and the acting Persian Consnl-General were first introduced to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and the United States Consul presented members of the American Persian

who had recently arrived for relief

....

work in the famine- strikent districts of Persia.

The Shaikhs of the Baghdad Wilayat were next presented in turn, and each shook hands with the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, who then addressed the assembled Shaikh as follows:-

"I am heartly gl'd to have had an opportunity of seeing so many of the influential Chiefs of the districts and welcome this opportunity of talking openly with you.

"I bid you a most cordial welcome to the city of Baghdad , the ancient capital of the Caliphs and the present of Iraq -and this welcome is not only mine, but that of the British Army and the inhabitants of this celebrated city.

"Gentleman, nothing has given me greater pleasure than the tranquillity which has settled on this country, and this we have to thank the good sense and good-will of you, the leaders of the people. This is probably the first time during the war in which the majority of you have visited Baghdad, and you would no doubt see for yourselves that the means of reaching this city have greatly improved, and that shortly a visit to Baghdad will only be a day's journey for the most distant part of the Wilayat. Baghdad will then become indeed the capital and Chief city of Iraq. I also look forward to the day when schools

....

and colleges will be built and endowed so that only the inhabitants of the city but the sons of the Chiefs will receive an education to fit them for taking part in the regeneration of the country.

"I hope soon also to see experimental farms established, where all may see the latest agricultural implements and methods at work, and the results attained by the latest and most approved methods of working and tilling the land.

"An Arab learns by what he sees, and belonging to an intelligent race is prepared to adopt the best means to attain his end, viz, to make his land produce to the greatest advantage. The wealth of Iraq lies in the fertility of its soil and the abundance of water derived from its rivers, and in the past Iraq was a land of great wealth and there is no reasons why, with a just and helpful Government and with you cordial co-operation, it should not once more become a great and prosperous land with a contented and prosperous population,

"The Government will, I am confident, do its part and give all the help it is power, and I invite you one and all to cordially co-operate.

"During war it is almost impossibel to avoid placing irksome restrictions on the population, but it is my earnest desire that these shall be removed as early as is compatible with the military and political situation. 453

FORE. POL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920. Nos. 1- 152.Contd,

....

"I would however, point out to you that in nearly every country touched by the war, the distress and inconvenience caused has been infinitely greater than in Iraq, and therefore you are more to be congratulated than consoled with.

"The British have always respected the Moslem religion and the Holy Places of Islam, and since the Army has been in Iraq I think you will agree that all possible care has been taken to avoid damage to or intrusion in your mosques and Holy Places.

"General Allenby, I have shaken you all by the hand, not only for your own sakes but as a token of what I hope may be lasting friendship between the Arab people and the British Empire".

Shaikh Mebda el Feroan, on Behalf of the Shaikhs, replied, saying:-

"On behalf of my own self and on behalf of my brethren, the Shaikh and tribal Chiefs, I tender my thanks to Your Excellency, and to your Vistorious troops, and to our respected brethren, the Baghdadis, for you having all welcomed us, and for your having entertained us in your rich city so generously.

FORE. POL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

....

"You hope for the increase, before long, of land communications with Baghdad, that you might invite us repeatedly to such entertainments: and we, too, hope that the communications to our country districts will become easier, by the help of the Government, in order that we may be able to invite you cordial entertainments, and in order that we may exchange, from time to time, discussions to the advantage of all of us.

"Yes, our beloved General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, we do thank His Britannic Majesty's Government for the whole hearted efforts for our welfare, which have been and are being made for development of Iraq and for the increase of its fruits and for the education of the population.

"And, being authorized by my brethren, the Shaikh and tribal Chiefs and Leaders to answer your Excellency's kind speech, I have the honour to declare to my brethren, the Baghdadis, that we have seen, with our own eyes, the many schools opened outside Baghdad: I assure them that you have seen, with, opened many canals, from which all the rich hand-owners (and the fellah in general) are deriving bountiful advantage.

"This is what has been worth mentioning in recognition of your good will, and of the good will of His Britannic Majesty's Government.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

....

"In conclusion, I beg to tender our choicest hearty thanks to your Excellency and to you brave troops, and to our respected brethren, the Baghdadis. May God guide our steps and lead us to success, and may you all enjoy not only this auspicious day of festival, but also enjoy yourselves for ever.

An inspection of one of his Majesty's Ships a dinner and a theatrical performance marked the close of a day which will be long remembered in the history of Baghdad, to judge by the great interest excited by the account of the proceedings brought back by the Shaikhs to their districts.

Needless to say that recent success of the Allied Armies have aroused much excitement throughout Mesopotamia. Telegrams of congratulation have poured into Baghdad from all parts of the country, and deputations of notables in every town have called upon the local officers to express their delight.

The file may be returned to the Foreign and Political Department, with a request that a copy of papers may kindly be supplied to us.

L. C. STEVENSON-4-11-18.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920.NOS. 1- 152.Contd.

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Pro No. 19

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8532, DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Reports the action taken by Bin Saud against Bin Rashid.

Pro No. 20

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8585, DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

LETTERS FROM Fakhri Pasha reporting the death of Sultan
and offering congratulations the victory of the
Akhwan of Kur Khurma over the Sherif.

Pro No. 21

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8586, DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that 1,500 camels were captured by Bin Saud. Scouts
are watching Bin Bashid. Tarafiya will be base for
continual raids.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1-152. Contd.

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TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8594, DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that Bin Saud is in excellent spirit. Gives the strength of his force.

The Harb* are a powerful and independent warlike tribe
* Personalities- Arabia, page 123. of the Hedjaz and
of Nejd. The clans in the Hedjaz come under the influence of
the influence of the Sheriff, though they pay him tribute
only when it suits them. They are responsible for the safety
of the southernmost section of the Hedjaz railway.

† Gazetteer of Arabia, Volume III page 1833. Tarafiyat
is a village in Qasim, Central Arabia.

2. The receipts are for information only. Usual routine
action will be taken.

C.O'H.T., - 11-10-18.

For information. His Majesty's Government deprecated
any attack on Bin Rashid by Bin Saud, but Bin Saud has gone
in bald-headed, with Philby at his elbow.

Pro. No. 2. - A note is being prepared on the Akhwan movement.

W.G. NEALE, 12-10-18

A.H. GRANT, 12-10-18.

FOPE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd

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Pro No 23

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
LONDON, DATED THE 9TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that he presumes that you have informed Philby of the
decision of His Majesty's Government not to encourage
expedition against the Hajkalazi at present juncture.

Pro. No. 24

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EGYPT, CAIRO,
DATED THE 10TH (RECEIVED 11TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Regarding leakage of arms and ammunition from the Hedjs.

Pro. No. 25

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8604, DATED THE 11TH (RECEIVED 12TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Attack by the Mughatta section of the Ateiba on Khurma, and
counteract on them by the Akhwan and the death of
Iban Shulaiwikh.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

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Pro. No. 26

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8605, DATED THE 11TH (RECEIVED 12TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Same as above.

Pro. No 23 to 26 are submitted for orders.

Pro. No. 23.- The mention of "Haikalzai" is clearly a
misreading. The telegram has reference to Ibn Rashid and

Pro. No. 294, S.W. Dec, 19 Nos. 191- 317.	Hail. The
Whether Philby has or has not been told to discourage an expedition against	message has
Hail, the expedition is in full swing with -it appears- Philby's full support.	been addressed
	to the Civil

W.G. NEALE.

Commissioner,

Pro No .3, current series.

Baghdad, who also received that of the 13th September 1918.
from the Secretary of State for India. We may await his
explanation as the directions in the latter communication
were clear. Colonel Wilson's views on the telegram from
the Secretary of State for India, dated the 2nd October 1918,
are also awaited. + He may, if we hear nothing further by
the 15th October 1918 be asked what action has been taken
on this telegram.

Pro. No. 24.- ^IHigh Commissioner has taken note of the report

See Pro No 18, current.

Clearly. Cairo refers to the number of a
Baghdad Telegram

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

....

W.G. MEALE, - 13-10-18. of the influx of arms and ammunition from the Hedjas into Nejd and we may await the result of the enquires being instituted. There is no indication that the telegram has been repeated to the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, but the wording suggests that it has and we may assume that this is the case. A copy will go by post to Baghdad. General Staff Branch (Army Department) may see unofficially.

4. Pro No. 25 and 26 The Khurra position is again becoming acute and the evidence indicates that the situation outlined by the High Commissioner † Pro No 225 S.E. Dec 19 No. 191-317 Egypt, in his telegram of the 31st July † 1918 has been the result of an apparent failure of the Sherifian authorities to listen to wise Councils. The matter is now one for the High Commissioner to advise upon and we may "wait and see" what he has to say.

According to report the Sheriff appears to have had marked influence over the Ateiba as some of the principal sheikhs are closely connected with his Government. see pages 125-127 and 5, 10, 14, 19, 85 and 327 of "Personalities - Arabia", April 1917.

....

Vide note by Foreign Secretary dated 6th October. 1918 page 2 of notes.

4. As for the "Akhwan" or "Ikhwan" movements (it is noted as follows:-

"Ikhwan" is the title of the brotherhood of preachers. It is a Bedouin Society and Riyadh is the centre of the organisation. They take over all the Senefiyeh

tenets, and the object is to promote the spread of pure religion, in the dèxtreme Wahabi sense, among the different tribes. The abolition of all intertribal warfare is one of its cardinal doctrines. Ibn Saud is said to be their Imam. It presents the usual features of an Islamic revival.

See pro No 5 in S.W. Oct-18 Nos 1-170 page 55, Arab Bulletin, No 41, 1917.

As regards Fakhri

Pasha referred to in Pro No 20 current - he is the Turkish commander at Medina.

C.O.H.T., -12-10-18

W.G. NEALE, 13-10-18.

A very useful note. As above.

A.H. GRANT, 14-10-18.

Army Department (General Staff Branch).

Seen, thanks.

G.N. FORD

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS 1- 152. Contd.

....

Foreign and Political Department.

Pro No. 27

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, Baghdad,
No, 8620, DATED THE 11TH (RECEIVED 12TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Mr. Philby's interview with Bin Saud.

Pro No. 28.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, Baghdad,
No. 8629, DATED THE 11TH (RECEIVED 12TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Relations between the sheriff and Bin Saud.

Pro. No. 29.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, Baghdad,
No. 8632, DATED THE 11TH (RECEIVED 12TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Arms for Bin Saud.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS 1- 152. Contd.

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Pro No. 30

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8643, DATED THE 12TH (RECEIVED 13TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Request given by the Jewish community.

Pro. No. 31

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8665, DATED THE 12TH (RECEIVED 13TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Arms for Bin Saud.

Pro. No. 27-31 Submitted. They have all been addressed to the Secretary of State for India and are for information only.

* Pro. No. 31. Colonel Wilson has neatly
+ Pro. No. 3. placed his rejoinder* about

the arms for Bin Saud in his reply to the Secretary of State's telegram of the 2nd October 1918. The reports from Mr. Philby are self-explanatory and clearly show that the Sheriff is working for trouble.

His Majesty's Government are not likely to take notice of the proposed help in further arms and aeroplanes to Bin Saud and Colonel Wilson's view are pointed in this respect. No action on our part appears necessary unless His Majesty's government ask for the views of the Government of India.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E.JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1-152. Contd.

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2.Pro No. 30 may be seen by the Central Publicity Board in continuation of the main file sent to them on the 11th October 1918, with unofficial No . 7363- W. Being a Jewish celebration too much notice of the same in the Press should perhaps be deprecated.

3. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'H. T., - 14-10-18.

DEMY'S B'AY, 15-10-18.

A.H.GRANT, - 15- 10-18.

Central Publicity Board.

(Notes in the General Staff Branch.)

Vide Foreign Secretary's note, dated the 11th October 1918, on page 4 ante.)

Seen Thanks.

G.H.ROGERS, -15-10-18.

C.W.GWYENE, -15-10-18.

Foreign and Political Department.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E.JUNE.1920.NOS. 1-152. Contd.

....

(Secret.)

11th weekly letter from Major-General J.M.Strwatt, C.B., Political Resident at Aden, to His Excellency Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., &c., &c., His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo, dated Aden Residency, The 25th September (Received 15th October) 1918.

The situation in Asir has been somewhat vague since my last letter.

While we learnt from Saiyid Mustepha of the victorious progress of the Idrisian forces referred to therein, our secret agent at Marawa, a few days later reported a series of reverses suffered by the Saiyid's troops in the Beni Abs mountains during the last week of July. These reverses, it was stated, caused much annoyance to the Saiyid Idrisi, who summoned his military leaders and ministers and reuked them, and even accused them of treachery.

Again on Agust 10th, whilst at Hoderida, the same agent, Hassan Kajooni, saw as official telegram received that day from Ghalib Bey, the Turkish Commandant on the Beni Abs front, announcing the capture of J. Mandir by troops and the discomfiture and withdrawl of the Pro- Idrisi Shaikh Jailan Sagheer and his tribesmen from that mountain fastness.

The importance of the capture of J. Mandir, it was

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1- 152, Contd.

....

emphasised, lay not only in the dominating position it occupies in relation to Idrisi military dispositions in that area, but also in the fact of it commanding the routes between the coast and the Wadi shyrys and Sada.

The Sheikh in possession of J. Manddir, it would appear, realised a big income from tolls levied on caravans proceeding with merchandise from the coast, eastwards, and returning thirther with native produce for export.

✓ The Turkish authorities estimate that the revenue accruing from this source at the new post occupied, should suffice for the maintenance of Ghalib Bey's army.

Since the above happenings, Captains Clayton has arrived here and I infer from him that the state of affairs in the Idrisi country is by no means without hope.

The situation in that quarter has now been cleared by a message recieved on the 11th instant from H. M.S. "Odin," reporting that the forces under the Savio Idrisi had occupied El -Attam pm tie 6th September and that operations were proceeding against Lahiya.

Our news of the Yemer Vali's visit to the Taiz d strict is scanty.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS1- 152.

....

Confidential agent, Hassan Kanjooni, has informed us that things are most unsatisfactory in the Uddain "casa" where Turkish troops have come into collision with the Sheikhs and tribesmen, and heavy fighting has been going on for some time.

This information has been confirmed from other sources but details are lacking at present.

The conflagration in the Uddain area is undoubtedly due to an attempt by the Turks to levy a big war contribution on the local Sheikhs and population, and to a determination on the part of the latter not to respond thereto but offer the strongest resistance possible.

These views are supported by the principal Sheikh of Ibb, Abdulla bin Abdul Wahid Pasha, who is still in Aden, and also by Sheikh Muhammed Hassan, the head of the Shadalia Tareeka, who arrived here from Jebel Ras vid Kamarun on the 4th September 1918.

It is reported that two of the sons of the late Ali Abdulla Pasha, the Sheikh of Uddain who were summoned to Ibb, have been arrested and detained, there.

Mahmoud Nedim's preoccupation in the Uddin district has compelled him to abandon his projected visit to Lahej.

We learn, however that preparations are being made for his forthcoming visit to Zabib and that all the Sheikhs and

1168

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

...

The latter suggestion has commended itself to the Vilayet and in the absence of likely purchasers at Hodeida, the contraband trader, Sheikh Ahmed Fateini, of Taif, has been invited to make tenders for these craft.

One of our news agents at Mayia who is in the Turkish service, has informed our principal secret agent that the Vali, Mahmoud Nedim, is being accompanied in his tour by a mixed commission consisting of thirty military and civil officials, Turkish and Arabic; further that such commission at the demand of General Saeed Pasha will examine the question of the evacuation of Lahej.

It would appear that Turkish Commander represented his position as untenable owing to various unfavourable conditions obtaining - not the least important amongst these being the desertion of his Arab auxiliaries, who were overawed by the constant raids made by British aeroplanes into the Lahej delta.

Our agent, Hassan Kanjoni, adds that he himself has heard nothing about the proposal above referred to or of the commission said to have been appointed to discuss same.

FORE. POLL. SECT. E. DEPT. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152.contd.

...

It is significant that Mahmoud Nedim's tour in the Taiz district synchronised with the visit of Saiyid Kassim Azzi, the Director of Wakafs at Sanna to Lahej where he has been deputed on a mission by the Imama. The abovementioned Saiyid Kassim reached Lahej on or about the 21st August and left again for the Yemen on 15th September.

He brought a gift of thirty camel loads of wheat, raisins and coffee from Saiyid Yahya to Sa'eed Pasha.

We have so far been able to ascertain the nature or result of the negotiations which are said to have taken place between the Imamic envoy and the Turkish Commander.

Intelligence gleaned from several sources points to the fact of trouble brewing in the Zeidi Highlands and the possibility of a revolt of the Hashid chiefs and tribesmen against Saiyid Yahya.

It is believed that Sahikh Hizam-es-Saar of Amran is one of the principal instigators and that the brigand chief, Ali Mikdad of Anis, has promised his support in the event of a rising against the Imam.

We infer from certain reports received that Saiyid Yahya quite recently came down to Randah, a town some three miles north of Sanna to confer with the Acting Vali and the "Ulema" of the latter mentioned city on the situation.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

...

The Imam has, moreover, been somewhat perturbed by the activity displayed by the Hashid Sheikh, Nasir Mabkuth, in recruiting mercenaries for the Idriisian army.

In spite of the above rumours, Sayid Yahya continues to extend his influence in Turkish Yemen and is steadily succeeding in converting his nominal administration in several districts into a "de facto" one.

The Rida "casa" for instance, with the dependencies has been brought under his complete control, and has paid no taxes to the Turks for some time past.

More recently, an agreement was reached by which the Imam required the sole administration including the revenues of the country south of Sanaa right up to the Sahool bin Haji, which is at the foot of Tab.

Other reports credit Saiyid Yahya with designs eastward and as far south as the Audali domains.

His desire to acquire Otha and Upper and Lower Wasab is well known, and in this it would seem that he has succeeded to a certain extent.

The pro-Turk propoagand in the Yemen referred to in my last weekly letter is believed by the Kadi Atiq, of Behan and other chiefs in correspondence with us to savour of Imamic intrigue.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

...

A letter, dated the 23rd June, from our correspondent, at Menakha makes mention of the possibility of the removal of all Britishers interned at that place to Ibbā, which would suggest that it is not unlikely that the Imam Yahya was about to assume the direct administration of the Harrah "casa."

The same letter states that all English and Indian prisoners at Mosaka (? Menakha) and Sanna were well and that they are permitted to move between those places and Hodeida when occasion requires.

Since my telegram No.212-A.P., dated the 26th August 1918: was despatched to you, Secret agent Hssan Kaniconi has written to reconfirm his report that the Amir Ibn Rashid has no connection whatever with the Postal Convention referred to in my previous letters, but that that agreement was concluded with the Amir Saoud alone.

The Kadi Atiq of Behan writing to Colonel Wood under date of the 8th August that the Hakim Yahya bin Yahya Es-Shaif and a party of his tribemen had arrived at the southern limits of Behan. Also that Sheriff Abdulla bin Mahomed Ed-Dumain had been deputed by the Imam to the Rida district, where he had already arrived with fifty horsemen.

The Kadi adds that having heard that Sa'eed Pasha had instructed the Sheriff to visit Behan, and the Radman country, he immediately issued a warning to his people against the possible intrigues of that Imamid emissary.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

...

emissary, and instructed them to expel him should he appear in their vicinity.

The same correspondent states that Sheikh Alawi Ahmed El Mas Abi of the Ahl Fatma section of Behan, frequently alluded to in my letters, had proceeded to El-Karn en route to Sanaa but was intercepted by the local Bedouins and compelled to return.

This Sheikh has now fled to the Harib district.

Sheikh Saleh Mohsin Askar of El-Mausata, a casual correspondent, has furnished the following items of information.

(1) Fighting is proceeding between the followers of Saïvid Ahmed Pasha of Taiz and those of Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mupbil over some disputed territory.

(2) A fight lasting fifteen days recently took place between the Turks under Ismail Bey and Arabs under Sheikh Mahomed Es-Sahibi and the sons of the late Ali Pasha of Uddain in the Jebel Hubesi and Sahool bin Jai districts with casualties on both sides and the loss of Turkish guns.

Perim Intelligence Agent report the arrival at Mokha of the Daukali Sheikh Issa from Reheits. He has been seen at Dabab and Mauzi and it is said he is on his way to Lahej with mails for the Turks from Abyssinia.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

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Pro. No. 34.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,

No. 8789, DATED (AND RECEIVED) THE 16TH OCTOBER 1918.

Repeats a telegram which he has addressed to the Secretary of State for India regarding Bin Saud and the sending of Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman to explain matters to Bin Saud.

Pro. No. 35 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,

No. 8770, DATED THE 16TH (RECEIVED 17TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Repeats a telegram which he has addressed to the India Office explaining that he did not communicate to Mr. Philby the substance of his telegram of the 15th September regarding the refused to let Bin Saud have 1,000 rifles.

Pro. No. 36 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,

No. 8771, DATED THE 16TH (RECEIVED 17TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Repeats a telegram which he has addressed to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India reporting that instructions have been sent to Mr. Philby to issue 1,000 rifles at once to Bin Saud and to remain at Koweit till further orders.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

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Pro. No. 37.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8820, DATED (AND RECEIVED) THE 17TH OCTOBER 1918.

WITHDRAW of the embargo. Despatch of arms to Bin Saud.

Pro. Nos. 32 to 37 are submitted. All the telegrams from
Baghdad have been repeated to His Majesty's Secretary of
State for India.

Pro. Nos. 32. - The High Commissioner, Egypt, realises
the dangerous situation that is likely to be the outcome
of any obstinacy on the part of the Sheriff and the result
of his remonstrances may be awaited.

2. Pro. Nos. 33 to 36 may be read together. They are self

Pro. No. 275 S.W. Dec. 19. to 191-317 explanatory and go
read with the telegram from the to show that the
commander-in-Chief to War Office views expressed
no 65835, dated the 20 August 1918 by the Government
on pages 30-31 of notes on above series. of India in their telegram of the 2nd September 1918 were
cautionary and advisable. The reply of the Secretary of
State, dated the 13th September 1918 (Pro. No. 294 in S. W.
Dec 19 Pro No. 191-317, Arabia Series), is the one which
Colonel Wilson has withheld for a time - see Serial Nos. 23
and 29 current. His telegram of the 15th September 1918 -
(Pro. No. 297 in S.W. Dec 19 Pro. No. 191-317) - a copy of

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....

which was posted to Mr. Philby by Colonel Wilson-see serial Pro.No, 294. Ibid No. 35 current - commented on the instruction of the 13th September 1918 from the Secretary of state.

3. It is clear* that the position has now assumed an

* (The telegrams, if taken by date and time of despatch, with numbering, appear confused. It is hardly like that Colonel Wilson sent his first telegram of the 16th October 1918, No. 8769, before receipt of the report by Mr. Philby given in telegram, No 8769, dated the 16th October 1918. The last message may, therefore be taken as the opening one reading up to the others as at end of former Colonel Wilson states that his comments follow.)

aspect requiring firmer action and that proposed by Colonel Wilson appears the most suited in the circumstances.

The proposition to send Colonel Leachman- first enunciated in Pro. No. 294 in S.W. Dec. 19. Pro. No. 191-317. and not accepted by the Secretary of State for India- vide Pro. No. 1. current- again mad would seem the best that can be profounded if early action is to be taken.

A very useful summary by the General Staff Branch will be found in the file. It is time perhaps that the Government of India again supported the measures proposed by Baghdad as they are in the know as regards the local needs and the temper of the people with which they have had direct dealings. It may however, be advisable to ask Colonel Wilson for a final

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....

report after he has seen Mr.Philby, He was to have been at Koweit to-day, the 17th October.

C.O'.H.T,- 19-10-18.

It seems unnecessary for us to intervene. The release of the 1,000 rifles- and Wilson's action here seem justified will with luck pacify Bin Saud for the moment and the dramatic war news will give him pause. If so, we get a much-desired breathing space in which to review our policy, and we may await a considered opinion from Wilson from after he has thrashed out matters personally with Philby, whose tone has already perceptibly on getting into touch with the world news.

DELYS BRAY,- 18-10-18.

Unless Army-Department think we should intervene, we propose to await further developments. The time has hardly come for us to review the whole position in Central Arabia- though we may have to do so later.

A.H. GRANT,- 18-10-18.

Major-General Skeen, D.C.G.S.

Pro. No. 38

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EGYPT, No. 1527,

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....

Request of Fakhry Pasha for three days armistice to consider surrender of Medina.

Pro. No. 39.

TELEGRAM FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EGYPT, NO. 1527 .
DATED THE 17TH (RECEIVED 19TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Request that Bin Saud may be congratulated on results against Hail, and asked not to take any further military action in any direction. Sanctions the supply of 1,000 rifles in lieu of the inferior ones. Approves of the gift of the tents.

Pr.No. 38 is for information only.

Pr. No. 39- Colonel Wilson will take necessary action unless it is desired to take advantage of the

† Note by Deputy Secretary (F.) dated the 18th October 1918. opportunity to call for a considered

opinion † in ordering compliance with the instructions. They meet the more pressing issues. With regard, however, to the question of the supply of tents for Bin Saud, the file is a separate one and action will be taken there on.

C.O'J.T., - 19-10-18.

DANYS BRAY- 19-10-18.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. NOS. 1-152. Contd.

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(Notes in the Central Publicity Board.)

(vide Foreign Secretary's note, dated the 15th October 1918,
on page II, ante.)

Please see the last sentence of Paragraph 2 of the Foreign

‡ Page II, ante. and Political Department note

‡ of the 15th instant. Seen and returned with thanks.

L. C. STEVENS, - 16-10-18.

Foreign and Political Department.

For information. A copy of the papers may go officially
to the Army Department.

C. O' H. T., - 17-10-18.

DEMYS BRAY, - 18-10-18.

Pro. No. 40

ENDORSEMENT TO THE ARMY DEPARTMENT, NO. 1398-W., DATED
THE 21ST OCTOBER 1918.

Forwards copy of Serial No. 30, for information.

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Pro. No. 41

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT,
No. 1548, DATED THE 21ST (RECEIVED 22ND) OCTOBER 1918.

Approves of the proposals made by the Officiating Civil
Commissioner in Mesopotamia with regard to the future
treatment of Bin Saud. Makes suggestions with regard
to Khurma.

The question* of the boundary of the Hedjaz has been
*Pages 158-162. S.W. Dec. 19 throughly gone into
Pro. No. 191-317 + page 157 by Mr. Philby in his
of correspondence in Ibid letter + No. M.-158

dated the 13th August 1918. A copy has been sent to His
Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

2. For information. No orders. As Mr. Philby will
shortly reach Baghdad, Colonel Wilson, after personal
consultation with him, is sure to report further or at
least answer Cairo. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O.H.T.,

DENYS BRAY, - 22-10-18.

A.H. GRANT, - 22-20-18.

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Pro.No. 42.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 8992, DATED THE 22ND (RECEIVED 23RD) OCTOBER 1918.

Regrets that he is unable to agree with the British High
Commissioner in Egypt in his views with regard to
Khurma.

For. Information. NO orders. Usual routine action will
be taken.

C.O.H.F., - 23-10-18.

Logically Wilson has clearly the better of it: practically
I'm not so sure. In any case we want to put off the evil
day when interference on our part is unavoidable.

DENYS BRAY, - 23-10-18.

A.H. GRANT, - 24-10-18.

Pro. No. 43.

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S HIGH COMMISSIONER,
EGYPT, NO.1560, DATED THE 24TH (RECEIVED 25TH) OCTOBER
1918 .

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....

Comments as regards Khurma situation.

The discussion is working up to a declaration of policy by His Majesty's Government who have Baghdad's views. May await results.

Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'.H.T., - 26-10-18.

DREWS BRAY, - 26-10-18.

A.H. GRANT, - 27-10-18.

(Notes in the General Staff Branch .)

(vide Foreign Secretary's note, dated the 18th October 1918, on page 15, ante.)

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief agrees.

A. SPENN, - 21-10-18.

The conclusions arrived at by Foreign Department are concurred in.

A.H. BINGLEY, 24-10-18.

Foreign and Political Department.

For information. No action, except routine, for the present.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

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C.O'H.T., - 25-10-18.

DENYS BRAY, - 25-10-18.

Pro. No. 44

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 9111, DATED THE 26TH (RECEIVED 28TH) OCTOBER. 1918.

Repeats a letter received by Bin Saud from Rakhri Pasha of
Medina congratulating him on the success of the Akhwan at
Khurma.

For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'H.T., - 29-10-18.

DENYS BRAY, - 29-10-18.

Pro. No. 45

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,

DATED THE 28TH (RECEIVED 30TH) OCTOBER 1918.

Says that Dr. Weizmann is not available. He accordingly

propose to hold the matter over for the present.

The offeiating Civil Commissioner proposed * the visit
of Dr. Weizmann to Beghdad

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

....

as the means of exhibiting to the world at large the blessings of British administration in Mesopotamia.

2. For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'H.T., - 30-10-18.

DEWYS BRAY, - 31- 10-18.

Pro. No. 46

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,

DATED THE 28TH (RECEIVED 31ST) OCTOBER 1918.

Conveys order on the questions at issue between Bin Saud and King Hussain.

The Secretary's orders are-

- (1) that Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman should go to Nejd to bring Bin Saud to his bearings;
- (2) that it is not considered necessary to grant Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman the temporary rank of Brigadier-General for the purpose;
- (3) that the British High Commissioner in Egypt should warn King Hussain that the favourable consideration of his claims and Arab claims at the General peace Conference will be gravely prejudiced by the outbreak of civil war in Arabia.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

....

He should also remind the king at the same time of our treaty relations with Bin Saud and of our obligations to protect his just rights; also to enquire about the non-despatch of the promised friendly letter;

(4) that it is not though advisably to inform Bin Saud in writing that a special commission to determine the boundaries will be sent by His Majesty's Government. Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman should, however assure to Bin Saud in general terms of our adherence to treaty †

† Enclosure to Pro. No. 143 in of December 1915 and
Secret-war, June 1917, Nos. 60-145. of our determinatio

to give effect to its provisions when circumstances admit;

(5) that in the circumstances stated above, there is no necessity for-

(a) direct negotiations between Bin Saud and King Hussain;

(b) King Hussain to reassert his authority over the recalcitrant Emir Khalid; and

(c) the settlement of the questions at issue by the authority of His Majesty's Government.

Colonel Wilson is sure to act on the instructions

issued.

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....

2. For information . Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'H.T., -1-11-18.

DENYS BRAY, -1-11-18.

A. H. GRANT., 1-11-18.

Pro. No. 47.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICIATING CIVIL COMMISSIONER, BAGHDAD,
No. 9262, DATED THE 30TH OCTOBER (RECEIVED 1 ST NOVEMBER)
1918.

Says that he concurs in Dr. Weizmann not visiting
Baghdad at present.

For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

C.O'H. T. - 2-11-18.

DENYS BRAY, - 2-11-18.
