

1907.

TURKEY

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 31/7/07 P 120

Jerusalem,
 July 24, 1907.

No.

Received by post.

(Subject.)

Amoul Blech.

Recruits to work on Mecca Railroad.

No. 25

Reporting calling up of - to replace time
 Expired men.

Last Paper.

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(Minutes.)

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(How disposed of.)

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(Index.)

Next Paper.

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57 Jer

No. 25.

Jerusalem,
July 24, 1907.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Governor of Jerusalem has been informed by telegraph that it has been decided to replace three thousand soldiers of the Fifth Army Corps, employed in the Hejaz Railway Work Battalion, whose period of active service has now expired. His Excellency is therefore instructed to take immediate measures for calling up for service on the Hejaz Railway all this year's recruits of the first category (Hatiib-i-covel) including such as have hitherto evaded military service by concealment or

His Excellency

subterfuge

The Right Honourable

Sir N. R. O'Connor, G. C. B., G. C. M. G.,

cc,

cc,

cc,

Constantinople.

subterfuge, as well as all the recruits of the second category (*tertib-i-sâni*) belonging to the Redif battalions of this Liva.

I shall have the honour to report later respecting the number of recruits so called up.

In notifying this decision, the local official journal dilates on the benefits to be derived therefrom by the recruits. These are: (1) the honour of co-operating in this great work, so important for Islam and so dear to the heart of His Majesty the Sultan; (2) the advantages of being nearer home and not being obliged to undertake the comparatively long and arduous journey to Tripoli; and (3) the greater comfort and increased pay which they will enjoy while employed on the railway. The writer, with some ingenuousness, proceeds to observe that notwithstanding these —
unquestionable

unquestionable advantages there are individuals so misguided as to seek to avoid military service by flight. A precarious life of skulking in the mountains, far from their villages and families, and the certainty of eventual capture and punishment, is their lot; and it is obviously in the interest of the people of Palestine to undertake with alacrity the honourable military duties incumbent upon them, and thus to acquit themselves in some measure of the debt of gratitude which they owe to their Sovereign.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble servant,

E. Bleich.