Jerusalem,
November 23. 1905

No. 53.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Ronald Macleay's Despatch of the 27th ultimo, transmitting a Copy of a Despatch which Your Excellency had received from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs relative to "Der Juedische National fonds", and asking for any observations I may

His Excellency
The Right Honble
Sir N. O'Conor, G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Macleay to Consul Mackern
Alexandria, Nov. 6. 1905
Applies for Customs immunities at Jaffa for books of the British & Foreign Bible Society.

Acolo. 1
Mr Consul Mackern's
Desh. No. 57 of Nov. 18
In 71 Cons. 1905

may have to make on the subject.

In reply I beg to state that after the formation of the great scheme of the late Dr. Herzl, under the name of "Zionism", for the repatriation of the Jews to Palestine and the ultimate acquisition of the country, it was necessary to form a Company for the collection of funds and to deal generally with the financial questions involved in the undertaking. With this object "Der Juedische National fonds" was founded, which may be considered as the prospective

prospective Treasury of the Jewish State to be created in accordance with Dr. Herzl's views.

"Der Juedische National fonds" lost no time in commencing operations in Palestine and the Company has already acquired in the vicinity of Jaffa and in Galilee, something like 15000 "dunnums" of land, equal to 3368 acres. As, however, by the laws of Turkey this land has had to be registered in the name of an individual Member of "Der Juedische National fonds", the managing Committee, to prevent difficulties in the future in the event of the death

death of the registered owners, has ceased for the present to make further purchases, hoping, no doubt, that when the Company is registered under section 23 of the Companies Act 1867, an Imperial Iradé may be obtained from the Sultan, authorizing the property to be inscribed in the name of the President for the time being.

One of the promoters of the Company, namely, Dr. Oscar Kokesch of Vienna, who was appointed on August 27th 1903 a member of Committee, has since died, and I am unaware who

who has been named his successor. The object, however, of the Committee in desiring to have the Company registered in England, is to give it a status as an English Company, and to obtain for it British protection in the Ottoman Dominions, although it does not necessarily follow that it would be entitled as of right to receive such protection.

Presuming that the request of the petitioners be granted, and the proposed Company be registered under section 23 of the Companies' Act 1867, two questions would arise in reference to

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it, namely, (a) the possibility of its receiving British protection as an English Company, and (b) whether such a Company, which has identified itself with a scheme for the creation of a Jewish State in the Ottoman Empire, could exist without being involved in the political difficulties and complications, which must of necessity ensue in the attempt to form the State refered to.

As regards the possibility of the Company being under British protection, I would observe that an Association, although composed of foreign members, which

which is registered and has its head-quarters in England, is generally considered as under British protection, when it is incorporated as a bonâ fide trading Company whose operations are to be carried on abroad, inasmuch as a Company in such a position must, to a large extent, have commercial transactions with mercantile firms in England, whose interests would indirectly be protected. The same remark holds good for certain purely philanthropic Societies whose head Quarters are in the United Kingdom, although the majority of the members may be foreigners. I may mention as

as instances that the "Anglo-Jewish Association," and the "Anglo-Palestine Company, Limited," which was incorporated in 1902 and registered in London, are in the enjoyment of British Consular protection in this Country, whereas the "Jewish Colonization Association" ("J.C.A."), which, I understand, has its headquarters in Paris, and the newly formed "Jewish Territorial Organization" ("J.T.O.") are not. Perhaps it would be desirable to draw up rules which would more clearly define the position of such Associations as regards their right to be entitled to British protection

protection abroad.

With reference to the political aspect of the case, considering the objects which "Der Juedische National fonds" has in view, I do not feel competent to offer any remarks on the subject, as the actual condition of the Jewish populations in Europe, which seems to call for the adoption of measures for the emigration and settlement of Jews in certain parts of the globe, is a matter to be dealt with by the Governments interested; but I would respectfully remark that if a Company is formed

formed under English protection for the acquisition of territory in Palestine, and the eventual creation of a Jewish State, important political questions must arise between the British and Turkish Governments, - such questions practically involving dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient,
Humble servant
John Dickson.

No. 54

Jerusalem

November 28. 1905.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Ronald Macleay's Despatch of the 2nd instant, transmitting a Copy of a Note Verbale from the Sublime Porte respecting the payment of the "Moukataa" tax which is to be levied as hitherto on the ground of the "Church Missionary Society" at Gaza, on which the new Hospital is to be built, and I beg to state that I have communicated a Copy of the Note in question to the Rev. Dr Sterling Superintendent of the Hospital.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

humble servant

John Dickson

His Excellency

The Right Honble.

Sir N. O'Conor G.C.B.

etc. etc. etc.