



SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY

OUTLOOK

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➤➤ Trend of the Week ◀◀

➤➤ Wailing Wall Report

TWO YEARS after Palestine's last disastrous riots the rights of Jews and Moslems as to the celebrated Wailing Wall in Jerusalem have been determined by a commission appointed by the British government with the approval of the League of Nations. The 1929 trouble between the Jews and Moslems centered at the Wailing Wall, a remnant of the wall of Solomon's Temple, built 3,000 years ago. Now the British commission—three prominent men from Sweden, Switzerland and Holland—has decided that the Wall is the sole property of the Moslems but that free access to it for worship shall be had by the Jews, though under certain specified conditions.

Like all reports relating to Palestine, this one is considered a disappointment by both sides. The Moslems are convinced that the privileges given the Jews are too broad, the Jews that they are too narrow. Yet no impartial observer will be greatly disconcerted by this reception for what appears to be an impartial report. Here is a definite clash, dramatized by the centuries which have rolled across the Wall. Yet the Wailing Wall merely emphasizes the real difficulty which the British have in controlling Palestine under the present mandate, which places in British hands both the task of developing a national home for Jews in Palestine and the paradoxical job of protecting the rights and the position of Palestine's 700,000 Arabs.

The British have done their best to square the ideal of the Jewish homeland with the rights of the Arabs, but it has

proved to be impossible. Compromise merely results in the British jumping from the Jewish fryingpan into the Arab fire and back again, *ad infinitum*.

➤➤ Florida's Betting Law

FROM the economic, from the political and from the moral standpoint the Florida legislature did well to override Governor Carlton's veto of the pari-mutuel bill. It did well from the economic standpoint because hereafter the state will receive three per cent of the gross wagerings at horse and dog tracks, instead of nothing, as hitherto. It did well from the political standpoint because honest betting on races has the support of the average citizen, and because the bill will commend itself to all fair-minded Floridians since, under its local option provision, no county can set up a race track and pari-mutuel system until that action has been approved by public sentiment in a referendum. It did well from the moral standpoint because the bill will discourage bookies, legalize a practice which is unobjectionable when properly conducted and unpreventable in any case, eliminate the hypocritical pretense of an anti-betting law and put the race tracks on a higher and more pleasant plane. If the pari-mutuel system works half as well in Florida as it is expected to, other states will be encouraged to imitate it. Which we certainly believe they should do.

➤➤ Conference of Governors

WHEN, a few weeks ago, we made bold to chuckle at the timorous program an-

nounced for the conference of state Governors at French Lick Springs, we were chided for irreverence. Naturally, then, we were amused to note that when the conference assembled its most severe critics were the Governors themselves, or rather the three outstanding Governors in attendance—Roosevelt of New York, Pinchot of Pennsylvania and Ritchie of Maryland. Another critic was that astute political correspondent, Frank Kent, who informed the Baltimore *Sun* that "every issue and question of real public interest and importance has been carefully sidestepped" and declared: "The most striking thing about this annual conference of Governors, which opened here today, is the thoughtfully planned effort to make it inane, inert, flat, flavorless, dull, stupid and completely useless."

Governors Roosevelt and Pinchot criticized the conference indirectly by departing widely from the trivial topics assigned them. Governor Ritchie criticized it directly for pussyfooting. Among them they made mention of most of the controversial subjects which the program committee had eliminated. Ritchie spoke of prohibition; Roosevelt of the tariff and unemployment insurance; Pinchot of public utilities.

In so far as the conference dealt with these prohibited subjects it was interesting and useful; in so far as it dealt with the assigned subjects it was neither. If only the Governors had forgotten the assigned subjects entirely, sticking to those controversial subjects on which an exchange of ideas is most valuable, they might have justified the cost of their trip to French Lick Springs.