

Record of my Conversation with Dr. Shihadeh,
Editor of the "Miraat el Sharq."

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1. He mentioned that he had given me commendatory notice for my work at Gaza. I thanked him and suggested that in future he might observe the courtesies of asking his objects of publicity permission to publish.
2. He stated that the estimation of Tithes had been performed not badly on the whole in Jenin. He said there were bad cases of injustice. He protests against the very impractical method of estimating the Olive Tithe. He said the Turkish method of pressing the fruit was fairer and more equitable. I told him that I ~~shahid~~ did not doubt that there were individual injustices; we observed broad rules and if people would only take steps to help us to know of injustices we should be only too glad.
3. He protested very strongly against the dependence of the Senior British Officials upon the Palestinian Subordinates who were often ignorant, very young and totally inexperienced. He told me that Nablus had not been happy in this respect. I offered no comments.
4. He asked me whether I subscribed to his journal, and further asked me what Press I did consistently read. On hearing that I am a subscriber to the "Palestine Weekly" he made a very unpleasant leer. He told me that his paper was suspect by the Government because it was Anti-Zionist but it was not Anti-Jew. I told him that I could conceive that a man might very well be an Anti-Zionist without being an Anti-Jew. Yet I doubted whether the simple Arab peasant could make the distinction and it behoved him and his paper to remember the point.
5. He told me that Public Notices, etc., are translated very inaccurately into Arabic and are often meaningless in that language.
6. He said there was a retrograde movement in Education at Tulkeram.
7. Tulkeram, I understand, is agitating to be brought into the Samaria District.
8. The Finance Inspector in Tulkeram is supposed to be oppressive.

Dr. Shihadih impressed me most unfavourably - under a cloak of frankness he disguises insolence and familiarity: there is no doubt that he does visit villages and could be dangerous. He proposes to visit Nablus shortly and I think that the Village Society should give him an interview.

1-10-20.