

April 10, 1939.

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We left Maan at 6 A.M. yesterday morning, looking like a real expedition. The military truck led, manned by four men and a corporal in charge, and mounting an imposing machine gun, led the way. Behind it, were the Willys, the Dodge, and a Chevrolet truck with our food boxes and camping equipment. It is lucky that we had the military truck with us, and it is lucky for the military truck that we were along. The wide from Maan to the edge of the Jebel Shera was as beautiful as ever, or rather more so. The sky had the clear, clean, washed effect that comes after a strong storm, and the view ~~sfxxxxx~~ over the Wadi Hismeh far below the top of the plateau is simply too wonderful to describe. Even the Wadi Hismeh had become carpeted for a short while with a covering of green, from which the isolated, in some instances multicolored, sandstone hills thrust themselves upward like stalwart giants. At the bottom of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ roadway spiralling steeply down the Neqb Ishtar to the Wadi Hismeh, all of the cars got into trouble. The three private cars stuck in the sand, and when the military car tried to ~~xx~~ around to help us, it stuck too. Finally, we all got out, with the dint of much shovelling and pushing, and were happily on our way again. Then, ~~xxxxxxx~~ when we thought all our troubles were over, and we were only about fifteen kilometres from Aqabah, the military truck broke down so completely, that it could not be repaired. My chauffeur, Ylias, was the only one who seemed to know anything about the mechanics of the insides of the left front wheel, which had broken away from the axle, and after he had spent about an hour tinkering about with, he, in company with the other chauffeurs, decided that new parts would have to be brought ~~xxxx~~ from Maan or Amman. We took two of the soldiers with us to Aqabah, to send a wireless message to Maan, and then Ylias drove them back to their car. I forget to mention, that when we passed Quweirah, we saw that some changes had taken place there in view of the conditions prevailing in Palestine, and threatening Transjordan. The police-post there has been surrounded by a barbed wire entanglement, and a wireless post has been ~~xxx~~ established there. Similar changes have been effected in Aqabah. The police post has been moved from its pleasant situation on the shore of the gulf, to a high point outside the town, from which all the approaches to the town can be commanded. It too, has been surrounded by a barbed wire entanglement. It has always had a wireless station there. I called on the Officer Commanding the post, Abdul Karim Bey, and gave him the letter from Major Glubb, which Glubb had given me to bring to him. Our house had already been picked out. It is almost next door to the police-post, and is not exactly expensive. It is to cost 35 piastres a month, that is, about \$1.50. I examined it, found it quite satisfactory, particularly in as much as there was no other house available, and found only that certain essential sanitary arrangements were lacking. By getting a gang of men immediately to work, I had everything in order by nightfall. We went out to examine our last year's excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh, and found to our delight, that nothing had been damaged, and that even our wooden pegs left to mark the five meter squares we laid out last year, were almost all in place.

Early this morning we began to work with a gang of about twenty men. In view of the advanced stage of the season, I do not think that we will be able to open many new rooms this season. Our main purpose will be to complete the section that we opened up last year. We shall go down to the ~~xx~~ bottom levels of all the rooms, - a process which will require the removing of a good number of the walls of the upper levels. The question of personell is much more difficult this year than last. I am being compelled to employ a number of Bedu, whom I know from experience are not worth very much. However, they have an increased nuisance value this year and they know it, and I know it. However, I think I shall be able to manage the situation. With one exception, ~~the~~ guards I agreed to employ, all

working as ordinary labourers.