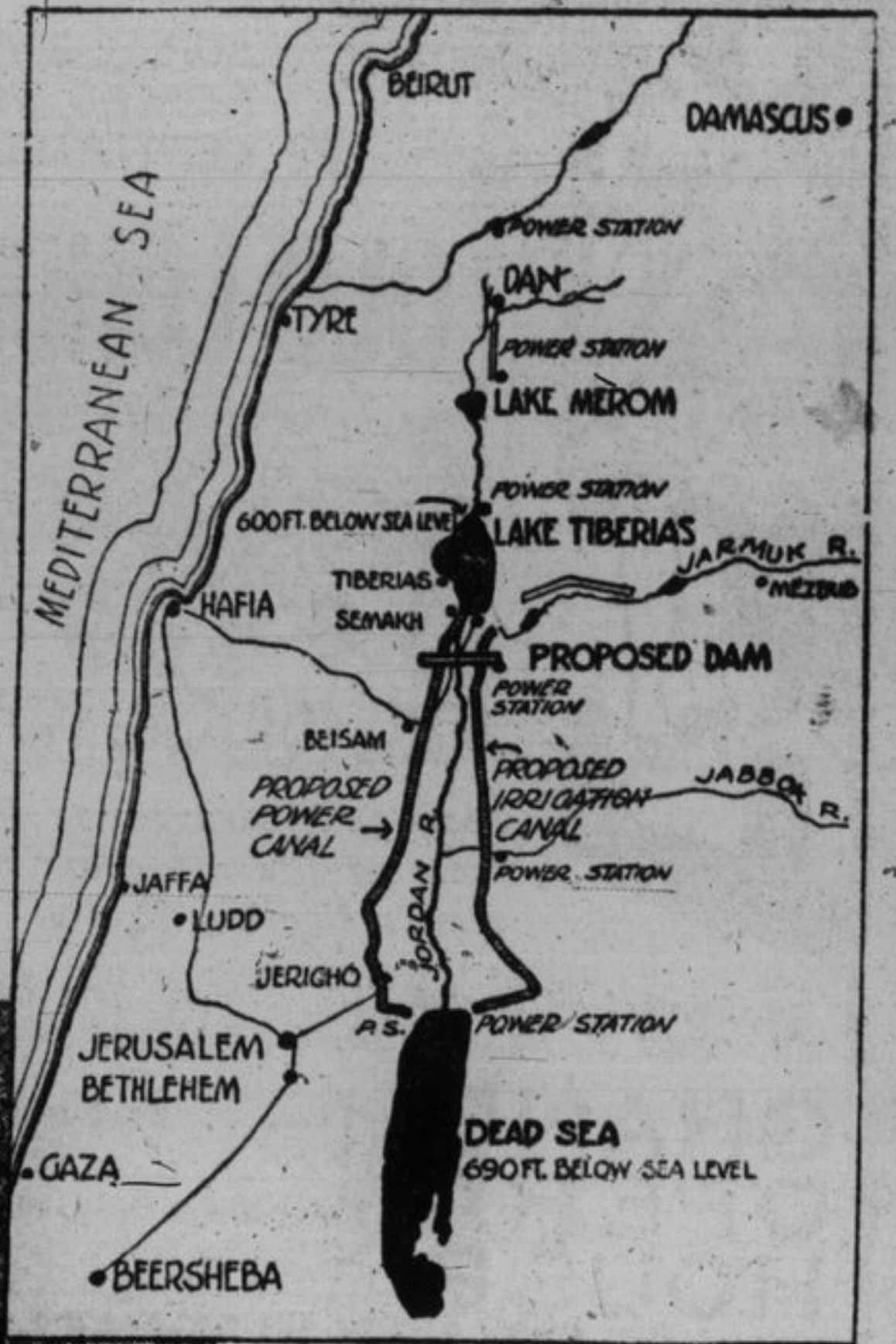


Harnessing the Sacred River Jordan for \$5,000,000

To Light Jerusalem Like Broadway by Horse Power Wrung from the Stream Where Jesus Was Baptized

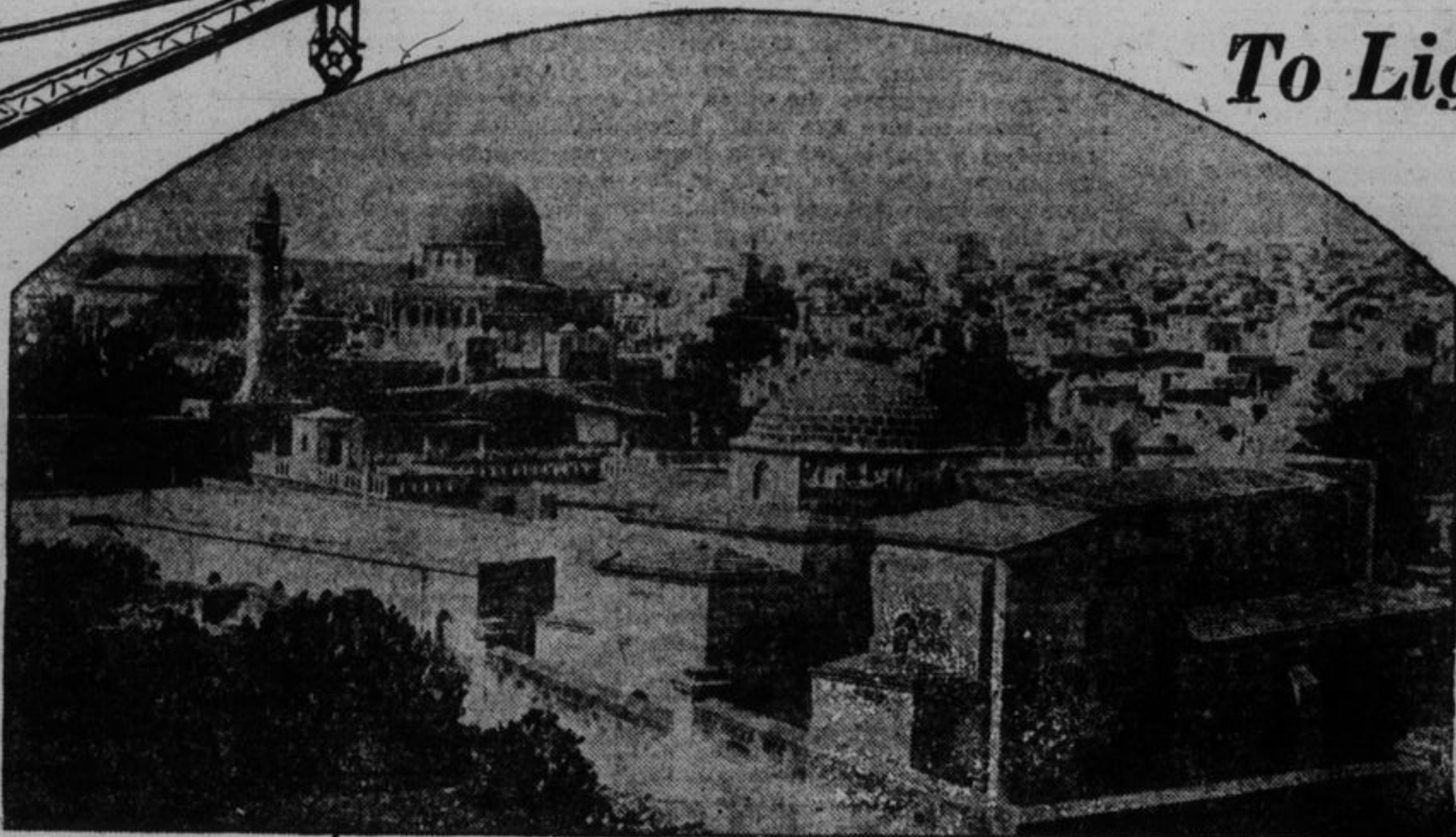


Map of Palestine Showing the River Jordan and Location of Proposed Dam, Irrigation Canals and Power Stations.

than sufficient will be available for all power requirements. In addition, there is another river, the Yarmuk, which empties into the Jordan a short distance below the Sea of Galilee, and still another, the Jabbok, joining the Jordan about halfway to the Dead Sea so that the Jordan itself will not dry up. The Holy Land, to-day is almost like a desert, after its centuries of Turkish control. Life here is almost as primitive as it was nineteen hundred and twenty-three years ago. It took an era of war to restore Palestine to occidental control; now with an era of peace, Palestine may be changed from a land of sacred story only to a land of prosperity as well.

A reproduction from Gustave Dore's Famous Engraving of the Baptism of Jesus in River Jordan.

Jerusalem As It Is To-day, from a Photograph Taken from the Hill Overlooking the Church of St. Anne.



THE sacred River Jordan, famous in Biblical history from the days of Joshua to the time of Christ, is to be harnessed by science to irrigate, heat, light and industrialize the Holy Land.

The British Government, which holds a mandatory over Palestine, has granted concessions to a company organized to carry out the project at a cost of \$5,000,000, and next month the first construction gang will pitch camp near the spot where St. John baptized Jesus.

Within five years the company expects to throw a dam across the Jordan at its outlet from the Sea of Galilee and to parallel the river with canals, laterals and ditches which will water the Plains of Sharon and other barren lands familiar to every Bible reader.

Nor is this all. After the initial expense of \$5,000,000, the company contemplates additional financing of from \$40,000,000 to \$60,000,000 through which electric power will be supplied to docks, wharves, railways, plantations, mills, factories, workshops, laboratories and every building and home from Dan to Beersheba.

Strange as it may seem, this generation may see Jerusalem, Jericho, Damascus and other ancient cities with street cars, "White Ways," great industrial plants, telephones, radio concerts, steam heat in the brief but bitter Mediterranean Winter, artificial ice and electric fans in Summer, and all the other modern inventions which hydraulic exploitation brings.

And this from the river the Israelites under Joshua crossed dryshod with the Ark of the Covenant; the river where Naaman bathed seven times to cure his leprosy; the river where John stooped to lave his Lord as the dove fluttered above their heads; the river whose reputed sacred waters have been bottled and sold for fabulous prices for centuries in every part of the world!

The development of Palestine has been discussed for many years. But not until Pinhas Rutenberg, a practical civil engineer, spent months of study in the Holy Land, reported that the thing could be executed as a paying proposition, secured the assistance of the Baron Edmond de Rothschild and other financiers, obtained Zionist approval and then helped to organize the company that got government concessions, was anything definite done.

Now there is already an electric power station under construction at Jaffa on the Palestine shore of the Mediterranean, two other stations are planned at Haifa and Jerusalem, and men and materials are being assembled for the first great step of the project—harnessing the Jordan.

What Mr. Rutenberg proposes to do can be told very simply. The River Jordan, most important stream in Palestine, rises in the mountains of Lebanon and runs only thirteen miles until it reaches the Sea of Galilee, also known as Lake Genesaret and Lake Tiberias. Leaving the Sea of Galilee, it winds southward until it empties into the Dead Sea.

Its main course, from Galilee to the Dead Sea, is only sixty-five miles as the crow flies. But the Jordan's channel is so winding and tortuous that it describes altogether a route of two hundred miles between the two seas. Where the Jordan leaves the Sea of Galilee is a falls.

Engineers will build a great dam at this point like the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona. This will make the Sea of Galilee, already a great natural reservoir, an almost unlimited source for irrigation and electrical power.

Photograph Taken at the Headwaters of the Jordan.

From above the Sea of Galilee two canals will be cut paralleling the course of the Jordan. A third canal may be dug in another direction to reach the Plains of Sharon. From these canals will branch out laterals and irrigation ditches touching the entire countryside. It is believed that hundreds of thousands of acres, now arid, can thus be made to bear rich harvests. Already there are in Palestine crudely fashioned waterworks, many of them dating back to the reign of David, which can be utilized as the canals are built.

Two power houses will be built on the Jordan, one near the Galilee dam and another farther down the river. The water in the Sea of Galilee can be so conserved in the wet season for use in the dry season that it is believed more

A View Showing How the Dam Will Look During the Construction Period When Picturesque Laborers Will Work Side by Side With Modern Mechanics and Motor Trucks.

