

(Feb. 4) that the Omdeh should name three sheikhs who would be responsible for the men and each provide 50 men. I refused to have any such arrangement in our conversation yesterday and Said also refused. After I left, Said had them to tea and they spent a long time talking. It seems that the above system was practiced by Dr. Budget when he excavated here. He paid the sheikhs 5 pt a day for each man and the sheikhs paid the men 2 ½ pt. Thus one half the amount spent in wages went to the sheikhs. Said refused as I had done. According to my instructions he showed the omdeh a list of our men but the omdeh was unable to name a single one needed for the cultivation. [Of course no one who is cultivating land is going to leave his crop.] Said suggested that as he was Omdeh, he had the right to stop the people coming who were neglecting