

NEWS in BRIEF

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA GUEST CONDUCTOR.

Jerusalem.
The first guest conductor of the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra's summer season arrived recently. He is Mr. Edward Lindenberg, conductor of the Bucharest Philharmonic Orchestra, who was granted leave of absence in January to tour Europe. This will not be the first time Mr. Lindenberg conducts an all-Jewish orchestra. During the war, 55 Jewish musicians dismissed from all Rumanian Orchestras formed an assembly of their own which Mr. Lindenberg led. He will remain in Palestine five weeks.

RAID ON TWO BRIDGE CLUBS IN TEL AVIV.

Jerusalem.
About £P300 in cash and valuables were collected by a band of 18 armed youths when they raided two bridge clubs in central parts of Tel Aviv on the night of 23rd May. Careful of the sensibilities of their victims, the gang took a girl along to distract the women victims. While they succeeded in collecting all available cash at the one club, they were foiled at the other, where a watchman had been posted after an attempt to raid the club the night before. When the youths observed him using the telephone, which is visible from the entrance, they moved off. The robbery is believed to have been carried out by a political underground organisation.

DEATH OF ONE OF FOUNDERS OF TEL AVIV.

Jerusalem.
The death took place in Tel Aviv on 22nd May, at the age of 79, of Mr. Arieh Akiva Weiss, one of the founders of the city. Born in Grodno, Poland, Mr. Weiss arrived in Palestine in 1906. In 1907 he was one of the founders of the "Ahuzat Bait" Quarter, out of which Tel Aviv developed in 1909. He leaves a wife and one son and five daughters.

TRANSYLVANIAN CHURCHES JOIN IN COMMEMORATION OF JEWISH VICTIMS.

Bucharest.
Impressive services to mark the third anniversary of the establishment of the Cluj ghetto were held throughout Northern Transylvania, not only in synagogues, but also in the churches of all Christian denominations whose leaders used the occasion for a manifestation of the solidarity of the Transylvanian population with their Jewish fellow citizens.

Prayers for the salvation of the souls of the Jewish victims were offered during Church services and the ministers recalled in their sermons the appalling sufferings inflicted upon the Jews. A mass meeting in Cluj was addressed by the Prefect of the Province, M. Vasele Pogaceanu, and representatives of all Jewish organisations.

RUMANIAN MAYOR PREVENTS ARREST OF ANTI-SEMITES.

Bucharest.
A Government tribunal has been appointed in the city of Sighet to investigate the case of a mayor in a nearby small Transylvanian village who interfered with police and soldiers who were attempting to arrest some 20 persons who had been attacking Jews in his district.

The Transylvanian press reported that the mayor, Stefan Berci, of Calinesti, in the Muramures district, ordered the police to free the anti-Semites and then told them: "You boys go home. I give the orders here, not the police, and I'll deal with the Jews myself."

IRREGULAR JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM RUMANIA ON THE INCREASE.

Bucharest.
Irregular Jewish emigration from Rumania has recently assumed alarming proportions despite warnings issued by the Zionist Organisation.

The entire Rumanian press published a statement issued by the Jewish Democratic Committee condemning this "criminal agitation for anarchic and clandestine emigration."

The Democratic Committee quotes a report received from the Joint Distribution Committee in Hungary pointing out that the organisation is unable to give assistance to the constantly increasing number of distressed Rumanian Jews who, after selling all their belongings, have crossed into Hungary.

The statement points out that Rumanian Jewry has been granted full equality of rights for the first time, under the present democratic regime, and that the economic burden resulting from the

war must be carried by all citizens, irrespective of ethnic origin. The Jewish population had, therefore, no reason to be afraid of their future in Rumania.

Appealing to all Jews not to fall for this criminal propaganda, the statement urges those desirous of emigrating to Palestine to do so in an orderly way through their responsible organisations and with due regard to the laws of the country.

ORT TRAINING YOUTH ALIYAH IN RUMANIA.

Bucharest.
An agreement has been reached between representatives of the Youth Aliyah and the Ort in Rumania for the vocational training of Aliyah youths in Bucharest, Jassey and Botosani.

These boys will form composite groups and will be trained in the existing Ort schools. Special Ort workshops are being established in other parts of Rumania for the training of the Youth Aliyah.

FIRST ACT OF I.R.O. ADMINISTRATION: WAGE CUT FOR D.P.'S IN ITALY.

Rome.
Acting on the advice of the preliminary administration of the International Refugee Organisation, which takes over responsibilities for refugees and displaced persons from U.N.R.R.A. on July 1st, U.N.R.R.A. officials have announced a 50 per cent. cut in wages paid D.P.s for work done in Italian camps.

The announcement has given rise to dissatisfaction which may be the forerunner of serious disturbances because the refugees refuse to work without adequate pay. Apparently I.R.O. officials have laid down the principle that refugees will work in return for their food, clothing and shelter.

U.N.R.R.A. has also announced that as from June 1st, it will cease providing aid to D.P.s living outside the camps. This policy, too, is in accord with the wishes of the I.R.O. administration.

DISPLACED JEWS FROM ITALY MAY BE ADMITTED TO BELGIUM.

Rome.
A Belgian commission, which has been negotiating with the Italian Government and U.N.R.R.A. for the recruiting of coal miners, is reported to have reacted favourably to a proposal by U.N.R.R.A. officials that it choose some of its immigrants from among the displaced Jews who, the officials point out, constitute half the total number of refugees in Italy.

The Association of Polish Jews in Italy, representing some 8,000 Jewish refugees, adopted resolutions at a country-wide conference praising the Polish Government and its Embassy in Rome for "their understanding of our problems" and thanked the American Federation for Polish Jews for its aid. It was also decided to launch a drive to raise money to plant a forest in Palestine on Jewish National Fund land to commemorate the Jewish martyrs of Poland. The conference condemned British policy in Palestine.

ORGANISATION SPONSORED BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE TOOLS AND MACHINES FOR ORT IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

Stockholm.
A Relief Organisation, sponsored by the Swedish Government, has been formed for the purpose of providing tools and machines for the Ort in Germany and Austria. Plans have also been concluded for the training of Ort instructors by experts at the expense of the Swedish Government.

Lord Marley, Chairman of the British Ort Parliamentary Committee, negotiated with the Swedish authorities and did much to bring about this arrangement.

HUNGARIAN JEWISH FARMERS DEMAND RESTITUTION AND COMPENSATION.

Budapest.
A conference of Hungarian Jewish farmers, convened under the auspices of the Jewish Central Board, has adopted resolutions demanding full property restitution and compensation for expropriated Jewish farm owners.

The delegates demanded that land confiscated by pro-Nazi regimes be returned to Jews regardless of whether they are now eligible to hold the land under the current agricultural reform legislation. They also called for guarantees that there would be no discrimination against Jews in enforcing all agricultural decrees.

In the matter of restitution, they asked that all property be returned and, where this is impossible, compensation should be paid. Compensation was also demanded for losses in profits and rents suffered during the period between the expropriation of property and its eventual return.

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PROTECTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES DISCUSSED AT AMERICAN B'NAI B'RITH CONFERENCE.

Washington.
A five-point programme of legislative action designed to effect better protection of civil rights was outlined at the five-day Triennial Conference of the B'nai B'rith here by Mr. Justice Meir Steinbrink, of the New York Supreme Court, National President of the Anti-Defamation League.

Mr. Justice Steinbrink proposed legislation against discrimination in employment and in educational institutions and specifically the elimination of "quota" systems in colleges and universities; laws to protect the civil rights of minority groups; to outlaw restrictive covenants in real estate deeds; and legislation making it mandatory to disclose the origins of defamatory literature.

He said he opposed "group libel legislation" on the grounds that the Anti-Defamation League "is not convinced that an effective statute can be drawn to curb this evil that will not also be a threat to freedom of bona fide discussion of public questions." Instead, he proposed laws requiring defamatory publications to disclose the names and addresses of the persons responsible for their publication and dissemination.

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