

Habonim (S.A.) W.P. Machaneh 1947-8.

The 15th Annual Western Province Habonim Camp held at Wemmer's Hoek from 23rd December, 1947, to 4th January, 1948, was in the true sense a climax to a year of Habonim work in the Cape. More than 200 Bonim, Shomrim and Madrichim participated to make the Machaneh the outstanding success it was.

The Camp this year again was under the able leadership of Ba-Koach H. L. Stern (Sandpiper), assisted by Mr. W. Sollinger (Piepchen) and a staff consisting of Quartermasters, Medical Officer and Kashrut Superintendent. Two Bonim gedudim and a Bonot gedud were each in the care of selected Roshim, and the Chavurah camp, although run by a Vaad, had as Merakez Chaver A. Rostowsky.

The Wemmer's Hoek site was a favourite one, with happy memories of several years past (fires and bees?). Camp was laid out on the well-wooded land, between the Old Mill and the Wemmer's stream.

PLANNED PROGRAMME.

The subject for this year's camp was Am Israel Bearzoh (The Jewish People in its land), and during the course of 12 days Bonim learned about the early period of independence and then led on to the modern era of independence. The gedudim were known as Negev, Sharon and Galil. Among the highlights of the programme that of the Battle of Deborah and Sissera and the trail of Joshua into the Holy Land will remain supreme in our memories.

"Night life" in Habonim Camp centred around the Medurah (Campfire), and just as in previous year this proved to be most enjoyable. Campers will also remember fancy dress, the Talent evening and those short moments snatched to dance our folk dances before going to bed.

The practical outdoor work or Tzofnut was of a very high standard and the tents competed for Ohel (Tent Site), Nikayon Atzmi (personal inspection) and also for Mitbach and Toranut (Cooking and orderly duty).

At the end of Camp the best Rosh Kevutzah and Boneh in each gedud was chosen. In Gedud Galil: Best Rok, A. Nurick; Best Boneh, S. Bitnun. Gedud Sharon: Best Rok, G. Hoffman and S. Waynik; Best Boneh, M. Korber. Gedud Negev: Best Rok, L. Lifson; Best Boneh, I. Meyers.

For 12 days Bonim and Bonot lived together in a true Hebrew atmosphere, learning, working and enjoying themselves thoroughly, so gaining inspiration for a further year's constructive work amongst our Youth in Habonim.

SHOMRIM CAMP.

The programme for shomrim was different and based on a different theme, viz., Hitachzut. The Chavurah therefore acted as if they themselves had gone on to the land of the Keren Kayemet L'Israel and prepared it for settlement. They therefore in all ways as far as possible acted as a Kibbutz to be. Some of the projects undertaken were to map out the whole area in detail, building a migdal and dam, etc. The whole machaneh participated in a kupah (central fund). Another part of the programme was a study of labour movements in the world and the Arab position in Eretz Israel.

This year's Habonim machaneh was the largest ever to have been held in this Province. It was the biggest single camp of Zionist Youth and it is hoped that it will continue to grow in both numbers and quality.

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Bahrein Jewish Residents Assured of Protection.

London.

Shaikh Sulman, Ruler of Bahrein, off the Persian Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia, has assured the British Government that the 40 Jewish families living within his territory will be protected, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commonwealth Relations has told Mr. A. L. Easterman, Political Secretary of the World Jewish Congress. The Congress had intervened with the Government after reports that local Moslems had been rioting against Jewish residents of the State, which is a British protectorate.

Engel Prize Award.

Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv Municipality's Engel Prize (in memory of the Jewish composer, Yoel Engel), was awarded at a ceremony held on 1st January to the composer, M. Mahler-Kalkstein, and Moshe Ravina, a music critic and scholar. Mr. Mahler-Kalkstein was awarded the prize for his "Folk Symphony," which expresses the spirit of modern Jewish Palestine. The award to Mr. Ravina was for his study entitled "Yoel Engel and Jewish Music," the first comprehensive work on the pioneer of modern Jewish music.

Vienna.

The Russian authorities in Austria have ordered the Austrian police to increase border control in order to prevent the infiltration of Jewish refugees from Rumania. Since the order was issued, only ten refugees have managed to reach Vienna on an average per day.

At the same time, the Displaced Persons Division of the American military authorities has ordered that the six refugee camps in Vienna should carry out a check of their inmates once a week, primarily for the purpose of establishing health conditions. The check is being carried out by American officials. All Jews crossing into Austria now receive health certificates from the American authorities.—J.T.A.