

ARABS AND JEWS IN PALESTINE

Still "Urgent Need to be on Guard"

London, September 22nd.

COMMENTING on the Arab-Jewish unity against Hitlerism in Palestine, "Great Britain and the East" expresses the hope that "when peace is again restored to the world the interval for reflection, which will have given the two races an opportunity to live and work together peaceably, will be translated into an agreed solution which will satisfy both sides."

The "Zionist Review," organ of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain, referring to widespread Press reports about "some kind of truce" in Palestine, draws attention to the fact that "in the last few days, a few incidents have occurred in which Jews have been shot at by Arab terrorists. There is still an urgent need for the Jews of Palestine to be on guard."

HAIFA A CONTRABAND CONTROL BASE

London, September 30th.

HAIFA has been established by the British Government as one of its contraband control bases, and a Prize Court has been set up there. This is in accordance with the Prize Act, 1939, passed recently, by which provision was made for the establishment of Prize Courts in mandated territories.

Prize law is an essential supplement to a successful blockade. It provides the rules for deciding whether a captured ship and/or its cargo are lawful prizes, or whether they must be returned to their owners. In war-time Prize Courts are set up in all maritime belligerent countries. Palestine contains several harbours (especially Haifa) to which captured or suspected vessels could be conducted, and the country is also an important junction for air traffic.

MUFTI'S MESSAGE TO FRANCE

London, September 27th.

ACCORDING to a Beirut message published here, Haj Amin El Husseini, Mufti of Jerusalem, has sent to the High Commissioner of Syria a message stating that Palestinian Arabs will "abstain from all acts which could impede France or reflect on her interests, hoping that she can bring about a reign of justice and peace, and safeguard the liberties and independence of nations, which is the only aim of us all."

PALESTINE'S ECONOMY IN WAR TIME

An Optimistic Survey

AN optimistic survey of Palestine's economy in wartime is published in the "Palestine Review" in Jerusalem.

As regards the question of what will happen to Palestine foreign trade in war time, and whether Palestine exports will suffer, the journal states:—

"Our two chief exports are citrus fruit and potash. The latter has latterly become of inestimable importance. Without a doubt both articles are as much in demand in war as in peace. But export possibilities will be largely dependent on the freedom of the seas, which will be a decisive factor for a considerable part of the capital invested here. The orange industry will undoubtedly be in very bad case if there are export difficulties. Special attention must under all circumstances be given to it, because of its heavy indebtedness at a high rate of interest. In this it is unlike the mixed agriculture of the country, which should be in a very good position if only on account of the difficulties of import, even though it, too, will be faced with difficulties."

Imports and Supply

As regards imports and supply, the "Palestine Review" points out that "in general it must be said that the outbreak of war finds Palestine far better stocked than did the crises of previous years. Naturally that will not stop panic purchases with which every war begins. Regrettable as these are for the consumer, trade and industry reap certain advantages from them. The store houses are emptied. As a result the situation becomes less rigid, and certain outstanding bank debts may well be paid. Different surprises of this kind may be expected in Palestine during the next few months, and will certainly affect the investor.

"Certain large companies have, for instance, 'volens volens' overstocked themselves with goods which have very

little to do with their direct commercial concerns. This was the only way of exporting their capital from Germany. Such firms include Pasa, Nir, and Rasco, all of which sell debentures to the public. The outbreak of war and the resulting demand for goods will bring these companies considerable sums in ready money at a single stroke. In addition, numerous struggling middle-sized industrial undertakings, in which Palestinian and foreign Jews have invested considerable sums, will now find their marketing difficulties solved. They will need to worry more about raw materials than orders.

Mortgages and Property

"Special attention must finally be given to two important fields of investment, namely, mortgages and property. At least £10,000,000 of Jewish capital are invested in mortgages, over £3,000,000 through the General Mortgage Bank of Palestine. The latter sold debentures against these mortgages, which were the most popular securities in the country. It cannot be sufficiently stressed that, in general, mortgages in Palestine are safer than in most other countries, because advances are generally made far more carefully than anywhere in Europe or America. Loans are usually limited to about 40 per cent.

"What is the position of houses and of land, which have long been popular forms of investment in Palestine? The question is primarily of a stable investment at a general instability. The values will naturally decline as the result of the present struggle. Should the commonwealth be defeated, the future of Palestine will also be seen."

PREPARATIONS FOR REFUGEE CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON

Lord Winterton to Head Delegation

London, September 22nd.

A MEETING of some 20 British members of the Council of the Co-ordination Foundation, the body set up to investigate and direct Jewish settlement overseas, was held here with the participation of Mr. Paul Van Zeeland, Belgian Prime Minister and President of the Foundation.

The meeting, it is learned, discussed possible modifications of the Foundation's work which may result from the definite conclusions reached, however, these have been deferred until after President Roosevelt's conference on the refugee question.

The Washington conference will open at the White House on October 16. It will, according to a State Department announcement, review the entire refugee problem in the light of the Lord Winterton is expected to head the British delegation.

Prodigies of Palestine



A quartet of promising students at the Jewish Conservatory of Music and Art in Jerusalem. On the wall is a portrait of Arturo Toscanini, conductor of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

YISHUV ORGANISES AID FOR POLISH JEWS

Tel-Aviv, September 25th.

A COMMITTEE to assist in the evacuation of Polish Jews to Palestine has been established here under the chairmanship of Mr. I. Gruenbaum, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive. The committee cabled the Federation of Polish Jews in America regarding measures of co-operation.