

Urgent Necessity for Arming Palestine Jews

STRONG COMMENTS IN BRITISH PRESS

THE urgent necessity for arming the Jews of Palestine is stressed in a number of English newspapers which have reached us this week. The position in the Middle East has changed considerably since these comments were made, but the arguments in favour of enrolling the Jews for the defence of the Homeland still remain as cogent as then.

THE New Statesman and Nation" says: "... We now have in this part of the world (the Middle East) only two trustworthy friends, the Greeks in Crete and Cyprus and the Jews in Palestine. These latter we have persistently cold-shouldered and neglected and they now face the possibility of tragedy. The Foreign Office preferred to conciliate only the reactionaries—the Fifth Column among the Arab magnates of Palestine and Iraq, our enemies in Vichy and our open foes in Spain. Even to-day, with the Germans speeding towards Bagdad, the puppet of the Axis, Raschid Said, is still at the head of the Government of Iraq and that arch-conspirator, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, is still at large. This policy of appeasing the wrong people has complicated our military task and made the problem of the defence of Suez more difficult than it need have been."

MR. H. N. BRAILSFORD, writing in "Reynolds," says: "We have men enough on the spot, brilliant commanders, and secure bases in Crete, Cyprus and Palestine. But the folly of our political policy haunts us. With the Greeks, the Jews were our only trustworthy friends in this region. By denying them arms we have exposed them to tragic peril, because we chose to appease the more reactionary of the Arab grandees, who have now turned against us."

IN place of a Jewish fighting force and an organised Jewish Home Guard, Palestine contains an unarmed Jewish population whose safety lays the gravest moral responsibility on the British Government," writes Mrs. Edgar Dugdale in the "Zionist Review."

"But there are signs already (some of them can be seen in the press) that the dead hand which has lain so heavy on Jewish desire to serve Britain (and even on decent acknowledgment of the services Jews have insisted on rendering in spite of it) is being lifted at last," she adds.

"Palestine Jews must be armed, enabled to defend themselves, and in doing so lighten the task of the regular troops. That is the first necessity, and it may well be that even now it will not be too late to organise other forms of military and semi-military assistance. The genius for retrieving a situation at the eleventh hour is not a monopoly of the British character or history."

"CAN we be confident that we are ready to meet a German thrust through Syria?" asks the "Manchester Guardian," in an editorial. "One obvious course is to strengthen our friends in Palestine. Yet the Government has not yet, it seems, given authority for the enrolment of Jews for the defence of their National Home. Is the Palestine Administration waiting until the Germans land?"

JEWISH ORCHESTRA IN AMSTERDAM

Geneva, May 21st.

A JEWISH ORCHESTRA is being formed in Amsterdam. It consists of Jewish musicians who are being dismissed from their posts.

MR. LEIB JAFFE IN NEW YORK

New York, May 24th.

MR. LEIB JAFFE, who has been conducting the Keren Hayesod campaign in England during the last few months, the results of which have been highly successful, has now arrived in New York.

DEATH OF MRS. HENRIETTA IRWELL

A Loss to British Zionism

London, May 25th.

THE death has occurred here, after a long illness, of Mrs. Henrietta Irwell, a prominent worker in Anglo-Jewish communal affairs and in the Zionist movement.

Mrs. Irwell was one of the founders of the W.I.Z.O. (Women's International Zionist Organisation), and was its Hon. Co-Treasurer and life-long Vice-President. She was also one of the first Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain, and Hon. President of its "Hadasah" group.

She undertook many journeys on behalf of WIZO, one of which took her, in 1928-29, to New Zealand and Australia, where she sowed the seeds for the Zionist work now being carried on by the Jewish women of these lands.

To relieve the tragedy of German Jews, and, in particular, of women and children, Mrs. Irwell took an active part in the refugee relief movement. She was Joint Hon. Treasurer of the Women's Appeal Committee.

A woman of rare generosity and energy, Mrs. Irwell's kindness and devotion were a source of inspiration to all engaged in Zionist and other Jewish activities. There was hardly a branch of Zionism in which she did not participate, and there was not a Zionist institution to which she did not respond with characteristic magnanimity and grace.

Her death leaves a serious gap in Zionism in Great Britain.

MRS. BALLINGER, M.P., AND MR. N. KIRSCHNER

To Speak at Zionist Socialist Reception

As we go to press we learn that Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, M.P., will address the Zionist Socialist Reception to be held at the Langham Hotel on Wednesday night, 2nd July, at which the Party's special effort for the Keren Kayemeth will be launched. The other guest of honour will be Mr. N. Kirschner, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation.

Seating accommodation can be arranged by telephoning 34-1941.

MILITARY MEDAL FOR JEWISH SOLDIER

London, May 22nd.

AMONG awards announced in the "London Gazette" as having been approved by the King in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East was that of the Military Medal to Corporal Leslie Ginsberg, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

CIVIL DEFENCE WORKERS COMMENDED

Gallant Conduct in Air Raids

London, May 25th.

MR. ISAAC BOGARD, a stretcher party leader in the City of London, has been Gazetted as having received an expression of Commendation for his gallant conduct in an air raid when he dealt with many incendiary bombs and fought fires for several hours, despite injuries sustained to his hands while doing so. Mr. Bogard is a Military Medallist of the last war.

Mr. John Godfrey, air raid warden, recently received a Commendation for rescue work in a bombed convent. He fought his way through one of the shelter entrances and carried on with rescue work until overcome by fumes, when he had himself to be rescued.

Mr. Godfrey is an old member of the Jewish Lads' Brigade, and was the founder, in 1908, of "Landsberg's" 1st East London Troop of Boy Scouts, the first Jewish troop in the world. He thus had the distinction of being the world's first "Jewish Scout."

Gives a MIRROR-BRIGHT Shine



PURE WAX POLISH