

NEWS FROM THE YISHUV

Airmailed from Jerusalem on Dec. 14

Refugees in Teheran

Jerusalem.

WITH the creation of a transit station in Teheran for thousands of Jewish refugees from Russia who originally came there from Poland, and are now being evacuated, help is being provided on the spot by several social workers from Palestine, including the wife of the head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, Mrs. Zippora Shertok, who went there with a number of trained women workers to investigate the condition of the children.

During November, Mr. Harry Viteles, General Manager of the Central Bank of Co-operative institutions in Palestine, Ltd., was especially delegated by the American Joint Distribution Committee to visit Persia and report on the prospects of relieving the distress among the refugees. Mr. Viteles, who flew to Persia from Palestine, also studied the plight of many thousands of refugees from the Baltic provinces and Rumania now in Asiatic Russia's southern districts. Mr. Viteles, who took up his residence in Jerusalem in 1925, represented the J.D.C. in Warsaw after the last war and was in the early '20's on the staff of the U.S. Children's Bureau at Washington. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and his family lives in New Jersey.

New Park for Tel-Aviv

Tel-Aviv.

USING a loan of £30,000 obtained from the Government at good terms, the Tel-Aviv Municipality has now bought land lying along the seashore in the northern part of the city as far as the port. This will be turned into a central public park. The area of this fine open space will be nearly 100 dunams (25 acres) when complete. Planning for the eventual laying-out of the park when normal times return is now being undertaken by the Municipal Council.

Rise in Bank Deposits

Jerusalem.

BANK deposits in Palestine rose from £24,000,000 at the end of June and £26,500,000 at the end of August to an estimated £30,000,000 on October 31, compared with exactly half that figure in September, 1940, it is stated here. About a sixth of these deposits were in co-operative credit societies.

War Literature

Jerusalem.

THE Committee of the Hebrew Authors' Association in Palestine is preparing the publication of a modest volume which will be devoted to the war effort. The intention is to include prose and poetry written specially for the volume, to select material already published, and to print notes, sketches and essays on front-line topics written by the men in uniform. The term "war effort" is being interpreted to include all writing that has the connotation of spiritual preparation for the burdens of these times.

The editor-in-chief of the symposium is the well-known Hebrew author, Jacob Fichman.



The Jewish units in Palestine have well-stocked Hebrew libraries, of which the men take full advantage.

Youth Aliyah Groups

Jerusalem.

THE Youth Aliyah Bureau in Jerusalem began a new undertaking over a year ago, by organising three groups of Palestinian youth undertaking land work. The groups when formed settled at Alonim, Ramat Jochanan, and Tirath Zvi, twenty-five boys and girls in each. The first fruits of this undertaking are now visible, and have inspired the Bureau to extend the scheme. Hadassah in America allocated a grant for the scheme in 1941 and Junior Hadassah is also now supporting it.

The Youth Aliyah Bureau organised another five groups. Preparatory camps were held for a month and, after thorough-going selection of the candidates in September and October, 1942, the remainder were sent to various permanent training centres—Ain Harod, Mezraa, Hulda, Beth Shearim and Sdeh Eliahu. Altogether 130 Palestinian youth aged 14 to 16 were taken from the cities and placed on the land. A third of them were from Oriental Jewish communities.

They will be given two years' training, half a day in the class-room at general studies and half a day on the land.

Polish Soldiers Seek Relatives

Tel-Aviv.

WITH the arrival in the Middle East of many Jewish soldiers in the Polish armed forces, a new feature has been introduced into the local press—inquiries by such soldiers seeking their relatives or friends in Eretz Israel. These notices are now appearing in the Hebrew papers. There have also been cases of soldiers in the British and Dominion Armies now in the Middle East seeking cousins and other relatives whom they know to be in Palestine.

New Irrigation Pipe Invention

Tel-Aviv.

THE "Khimmer" factory in Ness Ziona which manufactures irrigation piping out of a concrete mixture has completed tests to make the pipes out of a mixture of various kinds of clays, earth and basalt. The name given to this substance is Asphalton, and the piping can carry water at high pressure, even twice as great as that carried along concrete piping. It is hoped in this way to solve the acute problem of adequate supply of piping in war-time owing to the shortage of materials used hitherto.

The new pipes are made in special moulds and then kiln-heated. They have a diameter of three inches and over. A patent has now been applied for and manufacturing is expected to start soon.

Broadcasting Orchestra in Egypt

Jerusalem.

THE full Palestine Broadcasting Station Orchestra, consisting of 32 musicians, lead by Karl Salomon, arrived in Egypt at the end of October, to begin a tour of army camps and to give a series of public concerts in the principal cities under the auspices of the Army Welfare Unit.

KEREN HAYESOD INCOME

FIGURES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS

Tel-Aviv.

FROM October 1, 1938, to September 30, 1942, a period including the three war years and the last year of the 1936-39 disturbances, the net income of the Keren Hayesod amounted to £2,550,546, of which the total for 1941-42 was the record of £709,604 (including £65,259 earmarked for special purposes). This was the figure given to the ninth Palestine Conference of Keren Hayesod held in Tel-Aviv during the middle of November.

The budgetary and extra-budgetary income of Keren Hayesod can be seen in the following table for the four years:

Year	Budgetary Income	Special Income	Total
	£	£	£
1938-39	576,112	50,826	626,938
1939-40	591,157	32,202	623,359
1940-41	549,790	40,855	590,645
1941-42	644,345	65,259	709,604
Total	2,361,404	189,142	2,550,546

The total income of the Keren Hayesod since its establishment was £9,279,282 at the end of September this year.

Keren Hayesod and Jewish Agency income from other sources—such as from grants towards their services and loan funds—totalled £814,777 in these four years, including £311,560 received from the Keren Kayemeth out of the campaigns conducted in the United States and Canada and intended primarily for new colonisation under Keren Hayesod auspices. There was also included £50,000 transmitted to the Jewish Agency out of the War Needs Fund raised by the Yishuv, and devoted to security and recruiting purposes. Repayments by the settlements on account of the budgets granted to them were £17,300 and these will show a considerable increase during 1942-43.

The aggregate combined total of Keren Hayesod and Jewish Agency income from 1938 to 1942 was £3,365,323.

EXPENDITURE AND INVESTMENTS.

The expenditure and investments of both institutions in the same period totalled £3,232,374, in addition to which various guarantees and commitments were given by the Jewish Agency on account of future budgets and the Keren Hayesod repaid £253,631 capital on account of the Lloyds Bank and other loans. The expenditure and investments for individual years were: £811,500 in 1938-39, £799,100 in 1939-40, £762,600 in 1940-41, and £859,100 in 1941-42. Despite special war-time emergency needs, Keren Hayesod expenditure under the head of immigration and colonisation comprised 65 per cent. of the total.

It should be noted that during the three years of the war and the year of disturbances immediately preceding that period, 45,000 Jewish newcomers entered the country, and of them 18,000 were refugees who arrived more or less destitute, throwing a heavy burden on the Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod funds, which devoted 8.7% of all expenditure to this purpose. In the same period, new colonisation provided for the establishment of 28 agricultural settlements. Middle-class colonisation benefited considerably, in addition to the labour settlements. Total disbursements on agricultural colonisation in the period were £1,026,500.

Grants to the educational system and for cultural activities of £249,180 included £158,000 for the upkeep of Jewish schools and £63,000 to the Youth Aliyah Bureau of the German Jewish Settlement Department. National organisation, security and emergency help took £683,689 in the four years, and included grants for the maintenance of the Jewish Settlement Police and other auxiliary police formations.