

# NEWS IN BRIEF.

## BANKING POSITION IN PALESTINE IMPROVES.

Jerusalem.

In spite of the continued unrest, the banking position in Palestine during the past year shows a distinct change for the better. The total deposits held by banks and credit co-operative societies stood at £18,000,000 at the end of 1938, compared with £16,286,000 and £17,046,000 in 1937 and 1936 respectively.

The upward trend in the deposits is largely attributed to the appreciable amounts of immigrant capital which arrived in 1938, mainly in the last two months of the year. The number of capitalist immigrants registered during 1938 totalled 1,771 as compared with 1,300 in the previous year. Of the total of £18,099,134, banking deposits amounted to £14,980,000 and deposits held with co-operative societies to £3,119,000.—J.T.A.

## KOFER HAYISHUB ACTIVITIES.

Jerusalem.

The activities of the Jewish Redemption Fund, Kofer Hayishub, for the seven months of its existence were discussed by Mr. Israel Rokach, the Mayor of Tel-Aviv and President of the Kofer Hayishub, at a district conference of the Fund in Jerusalem. Mr. Rokach said that during this period a total of £76,000 was expended by the Fund. Of this sum £15,000 was spent on fortifying Jewish colonies in different parts of the country. £35,000 was spent on the training and maintenance of Jewish supernumerary policemen and £18,000 was spent on security measures for the Jewish population in the Palestine cities.

The Palestine Government, Mr. Rokach concluded, had a high opinion of the work of the Jewish "Ministry of Defence," and it recently asked the Jews to be responsible for the defence measures in the Jewish colonies in the Sharon Valley.—J.T.A.

## PALESTINE INVESTMENTS CORPORATION.

Jerusalem.

It is reported that as a result of Dr. A. Granovsky's tour of Western Europe, on behalf of the Jewish National Fund, a Palestine investments corporation has been formed for close co-operation with the Keren Kayemeth. Special committees have been formed in Paris, Brussels and Antwerp, embracing influential circles hitherto remote from Palestine upbuilding, whilst valuable connections have been established with leading financiers in Switzerland and Holland. Efforts to mobilise funds for urgent Keren Kayemeth activities in Palestine are continuing.—(Palcor.)

## GRAND OPERA IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Grand opera has been introduced in Palestine by a company formed of refugee Jewish singers and musicians from Germany and Austria.

The premiere at the Ohel Shem Hall, Tel-Aviv, at which the company presented Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman" in Hebrew, was a considerable artistic and

social success. It was announced that Issay Dobrowen, noted conductor who is at present in Palestine as guest conductor of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, will return later to conduct the Hebrew Opera.

Another notable first-night on the Hebrew stage has been Anton Chekov's play "The Cherry Orchard," directed by Zvi Friedland for the Habimah Theatre. This new "Habimah" *succes d'estime* was translated into Hebrew by Mr. G. Shoffman, while Mr. M. Schmidt was responsible for the settings.—(Palcor.)

## EXPORT OF ORANGES FROM PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Total exports of citrus fruit from Palestine for the current season so far have exceeded 12,000,000 cases, half a million more than the total for last year. The Jewish port of Tel-Aviv has shipped 1,500,000 cases, double its previous year's record. During the week ending March 28th, Palestine shipped 880,000 cases, the biggest week shipment in its history.

The United Kingdom has imported nearly six million cases of fruit from Palestine, which is a million more than the previous year, and most other European countries have increased their imports of Palestine oranges, grapefruit and lemons, except Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, whose imports dropped sharply.

Germany has now extended racial discrimination to Palestine oranges. Her import regulations provide that only "Aryan" oranges are to be imported from Palestine.

"Aryan" oranges are those grown by the 2,000 German Christian settlers in the Holy Land, who own extensive citrus groves, or by Arabs who for this purpose are apparently considered "Aryans" and not Semites.—J.T.A.

## GERMAN MANOEUVRE FORESTALLED IN JERUSALEM.

Jerusalem.

Czecho-Slovakia's "grab" had its repercussions in Jerusalem. On the day of Herr von Ribbentrop's proclamation at Prague concerning Bohemia and Moravia, an envoy of the German Consulate-General at Jerusalem came to the local branch of a big British bank, issued instructions that the funds of the Czecho-Slovak Consulate General should be kept for Germany's disposal.

The bank manager blandly stated he would take note of the request. But actually, an hour earlier, an envoy of the Czecho-Slovak Consulate had been into the bank, withdrawn all money, and closed down the account. He had foreseen the German manoeuvre and forestalled it.—(Palcor.)

## REFUGEE CHILDREN IN ENGLAND.

London.

Lord Gorell, the well-known author and publisher, is to succeed Brigadier-General Sir Wyndham Deedes as Joint Chairman of the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany; Sir Wyndham Deedes has been compelled to resign owing to the pressure of his other social welfare work.

His colleague as Joint Chairman will be Lord Samuel.

Twenty Jewish refugees from Germany between the ages of 15 and 18, some of whom come from formerly wealthy Jewish families, left Southampton on April 15th for Australia. They are going to a Government Agricultural School in Melbourne for a period of training before taking up agricultural work. They are emigrating under a scheme arranged by the German Jewish Aid Committee in conjunction with the Committee's Australian branch.

A vigorous attack on "the ungenerous British policy" regarding refugees is made by Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, M.P., in a long letter to the "Manchester Guardian" of April 5th.—J.T.A.

## ACTIVITIES OF IMMIGRATION AID SOCIETY (HIAS).

New York.

Forty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two Jews were admitted to the United States of America in 1938. Of this number, 23,775 were Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria; 34,277 entered as immigrants and 7,445 entered as non-immigrants. In addition to the refugees from Germany and Austria, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (Hias) assisted 10,000 other Jewish immigrants to emigrate to other countries, including Palestine. More recently, the Hias-Ica Emigration Association (Hicem) assisted 3,854 refugees from Germany to settle in other countries. Altogether the Hicem assisted 21,299 Jewish refugees to find new homes in other countries. During the first eleven months of 1938, 6,957 Jews in Germany were helped by the Hicem to emigrate, and between the Anschluss and the end of November, 1938, the Hicem helped 13,122 Jews in Austria to emigrate.

In its report for 1938, the Hias states that the total annual income of the Society in 1938 amounted to 378,817 dollars. At the end of the year, the Hias showed a deficit of 9,816 dollars in spite of the fact that the income for the year was much larger than that of the preceding year. This is explained by the increased activities of the Society caused by the large exodus of Jews from Central Europe.—J.T.A.

## PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SON ON SERVICES RENDERED BY REFUGEES.

New York.

The great service rendered by refugees in reminding America of the importance of preserving democracy was stressed by Mr. James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a speech at a dinner given by the New York Yeshiva College in aid of financing refugee scholarships.

"May they never forget the things they have been through," Mr. Roosevelt said, "and may they give us the benefit of their experience which comes from bitter persecution."—J.T.A.

## PALESTINE PAVILION AT NEW YORK WORLD FAIR.

New York.

Formal ceremonies opening the Jewish Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair will probably be held on May 15th, it was announced at a press conference with Mr. George Backer, Chairman of the Sponsors' Committee.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has indicated

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