

NEWS IN BRIEF.

TEL-AVIV BUDGET.

Jerusalem.

A budget of over half a million pounds for the Tel-Aviv Municipality was introduced by Mr. I. Rokach, the Mayor of Tel-Aviv, for the coming financial year 1940-41. Mr. Rokach estimated an income of £527,947 in the coming year and an expenditure of £525,922. These figures show an increase of about £55,000 over the budget of the previous year. The additional 3 per cent. taxation is expected to yield another £30,000.

The estimated expenditure includes a sum of £50,000 as a first instalment towards the consolidation of the Government loan, as well as repayments of other debts amounting to £38,000.

Comparative figures show the increase of Tel-Aviv's budget during the last few years. In 1935-36 the budget consisted of £439,000, rising to £445,000 in the year 1938-39, while last year the budget amounted to £470,000, reaching the figure of over £527,000 this year.

On the occasion of the recognition of the independence of the District Court of Tel-Aviv, compliments were exchanged between the Jewish Bar Association and the President of the Court. Tel-Aviv was formerly dependent on Jaffa.—(Palcor.)

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA.

Jerusalem.

The Palestine Symphony Orchestra paid its first visit to Sarafand where a special concert was given for H.M. Forces. The audience, nearly 900 men, gave the Orchestra a rousing reception.—(Palcor.)

KEREN KAYEMETH INCOME.

Jerusalem.

The income of the Jewish National Fund in the first quarter of the Jewish year 5700 amounted to £160,000. The sum raised represents an increase of 51 per cent. as compared with the income during the same period in 5699.

It is also stated that during the last three months the Jewish National Fund invested £282,000 in land.—(Palcor.)

SEVERE SENTENCES ON TEN JEWS.

Jerusalem.

After a joint trial lasting seven days, ten Jewish temporary additional and special policemen from Migdal and Genossar were found guilty of unlawful firing at Arabs. Corporal J. Abrahami was sentenced to 20 years, Y. Rabinowitch, Mukhtar of Genossar, to 15 years, three men to 8 years and five men to 5 years.

It was alleged by the prosecution that the accused, after entering and searching the village of Ghuweir Abu Shusha on October 24 last, to regain a rifle, had fired at Arabs, their motive being to revenge their comrade who had been seriously injured. The defence, as put forward by the accused, was that after the attack and theft of the rifle from one of their party

of five, they were fired upon by an armed gang from two directions, and they had taken action to ward off the attackers until the arrival of assistance.—(Palcor.)

G.O.C REDUCES SENTENCES.

Jerusalem.

The General Officer Commanding reduced the sentences passed by the Military Court at Acre on December 23rd, 1939, on the 38 Jewish youths from Rosh Pinah.

The sentences of ten years' imprisonment on 28 of the young men have been reduced to seven years, while the sentences on the other six have been reduced from five years to three years' imprisonment. The four girls who were sentenced to two years' imprisonment have been bound over.

It will be recalled that the 38 young people were arrested in November on the charge of being in possession of firearms.—(Palcor.)

KOFER HAYISHUV."

Jerusalem.

A sum of £P.10,000 is required monthly by the "Kofer Hayishuv" (Redemption Fund) for the maintenance of several hundred additional constables and for the assistance of settlements in providing defences, according to a statement made here at a press conference. The fund has dispensed with direct contributions in favour of the Emergency Tax, but it is hoped that with the aid of new voluntary taxes on cheques, bicycles and radios, the proceeds from indirect taxes will be greatly increased. The present income from indirect taxes is £P.8,500 per month.

A new tax in aid of the "Kofer Hayishuv" is to be levied on financial transactions. Jewish banks and financial institutions have agreed to charge the recipient an extra three mils on all cheques. A similar tax will be levied on all promissory notes of loans, at five mils per £P.20 (up to the first £P.100) and 25 mils for all sums over £P.100. Co-operative credit societies have agreed to tax all bills without exception.—(Palcor.)

GAS MASKS FOR TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

Six thousand gas masks ordered recently from the United Kingdom by the Tel-Aviv Municipality arrived here and will be distributed to local inhabitants who early in the war paid deposits covering half the cost. Masks are being sold at 250 mils and 800 mils.

Further consignments of gas masks are expected to arrive shortly.—(Palcor.)

ENGLISH DAILY IN TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

A new daily newspaper in English, the "Palestine Express," is published in Tel-Aviv by Mr. G. Komoroff, who had previously been connected with a Hebrew weekly called "9 O'clock in the Evening."

In a leading article the paper describes its object as "to give the attitude and viewpoint of all groups so that the reader may decide objectively for himself."—(Palcor.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT RAMAT GAN.

Jerusalem.

While digging for the foundations of a house in the centre of Ramat Gan, the labourers came upon the remains of a mosaic marble floor. Officials of the Department of Antiquities of the Palestine Government have found a floor with red, white and grey mosaics of an area of 36 square metres, as well as three wells, of which one had a mosaic floor.

It is believed that these are the remains of a synagogue, or possibly cemetery, of the 4th or 5th century B.C., which was destroyed during the Second Temple period.—(Palcor.)

JEWISH AGENCY ACQUIRES IMPORTANT COLLECTION.

Jerusalem.

The existence of a Jewish mint and armoury dating from the revolt of Bar Koshba, 132-5 A.D., has been established through the acquisition by the Jewish Agency of an important collection of arms and equipments. The collection was acquired from a monastery on Mount Zion. It consists of eighty pieces of iron and copper which were found in 1905 in Khirbat Alyahud on the site of the ancient Beitar fortress, the scene of Bar Kochba's activities, now near the Arab village of Battir outside Jerusalem.

No one had realised the significance of the collection while it was in the possession of the monastery. When, however, it became the property of the Jewish Agency, leading archaeologists, after careful examination, ascertained its historical value.—(Palcor.)

TEL-AVIV CIVIL GUARD.

Jerusalem.

That the officers of the Civil Guard (Mishmar Ezrahi) have resigned and the units dispersed was revealed in a question put by the Revisionist member of the Municipal Council at a recent meeting.

When asked why the Guard had been disbanded, the Mayor replied that the Municipality was short of funds. He added that the Jewish Agency proposed to form a Civil Guard for the whole of Palestine, and that they had suggested that the officers of the now defunct Mishmar Ezrahi should assume responsibility for the Tel-Aviv branch of the proposed body.

The Jewish Agency had agreed to cooperate with the Municipality in the organisation of the new body.

The question was referred to the Municipal Emergency Committee, together with a proposal that the Guard should be financed by the Redemption Fund.—(Palcor.)

PROF. PRATO FLIES TO ROME.

Jerusalem.

Professor Davido Prato, former Chief Rabbi of Rome, left Tel-Aviv for Rome by air.

In a statement to "Haboker," Professor Prato said that the object of his visit to Rome was to discuss with the Vatican and the Italian Government the position of Polish Jewish refugees in Italy.—J.T.A.