



NEWS IN BRIEF.

KEREN HAYESOD INCOME FOR 5699.

Jerusalem.

The net income of the Keren Hayesod in the Jewish year 5699 amounted to £627,300, which constitutes a rise of about 30 per cent. above the amount raised in the previous year, 5698.

The Jewish Agency's expenditure during the past Jewish year (5699) amounted to £783,363. The expenditure included £260,000 on agricultural settlements, £176,000 on public works and housing, £130,000 on security, £38,000 on education, £82,000 on trade and industry, £50,000 on training and immigration.—(Palcor.)

KEREN KAYEMETH LAND PURCHASES.

Jerusalem.

During the year 1939, the Keren Kayemeth has purchased 58,600 dunams of land in Palestine (28,100 in Upper Galilee, 14,000 in the Jordan Valley, 12,100 in the Coastal Plain and 4,400 in other parts of the country). About 13,700 dunams had been acquired within the last four months. The area of 58,600 dunams is the biggest acquired in any of the last eight years.—(Palcor.)

EXILED ARAB LEADERS PERMITTED TO RETURN TO PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

It is officially stated that the High Commissioner for Palestine has given permission to Alfred Rock and Fuad Saba to return to Palestine. Both were members of the former Arab Higher Committee (dissolved in 1937), and had been exiled from the country.

It is further stated that the High Commissioner has also granted the request of Ahmed Hilmi Pasha for permission to return to Palestine.—(Palcor.)

FOSTERING ARAB-JEWISH FRIENDSHIP.

Jerusalem.

Preliminary steps towards the achievement of Arab-Jewish understanding in Jerusalem municipal affairs were taken here by Mr. Daniel Auster, the Jewish Deputy Mayor. Mr. Auster invited a number of prominent Jewish, Arab and English personalities to meet at his private residence in order to take unofficial soundings as to the possibility of Arab-Jewish co-operation. The meeting, it is understood, took place in a very friendly atmosphere. It is the first of its kind in Palestine. It is thought to be significant that Government officials took part in this meeting in an unofficial capacity.

Another step towards Arab-Jewish understanding was taken by the Jewish educational authorities in Nathanya, who invited a group of Arab teachers to visit the Jewish schools. The Arab teachers were given a warm welcome by their Jewish colleagues, who took them round the schools and explained to them the Jewish system of education. After the inspection, the Arab teachers were invited to a luncheon given in their honour by the Jewish teachers.

A well-known Arab teacher, Ribachi Kemal, broadcast a talk on ancient and modern Arab culture in Hebrew. Jewish listeners were gratified at the excellent Hebrew of the Arab lecturer. It is understood that the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation is planning to broadcast a series of such lectures on Hebrew and Arab culture by Jewish lecturers, who will broadcast in Arabic, and Arab lecturers, who will broadcast in Hebrew. It is hoped that these lectures will contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between Arab and Jew.—J.T.A.

ANCIENT SYNAGOGUE AT SAFED REBUILT.

Jerusalem.

One of the oldest synagogues in Palestine has just been put into service again at Safed. It was built some 300 years ago by Safed Jews in the name of R. Isaac Lurie, one of the Kabbalists, and was called "Garden of Apples." The site was then outside the city, and R. Isaac Lurie and his pupils would go there on Friday evenings to "receive the Sabbath." Now the house of worship is in the centre of the Jewish quarter.

Prior to the earthquake in 1936, the building was repaired but the violent tremor at the time dislodged its foundations, and the passage of time caused other damage. It was about to be demolished by order of the authorities, but the local Rabbi and others raised £P.800 for its repair, and it was recently inaugurated anew.

The furniture comes from Rabbi Hirsch's seminary in Frankfurt on Main, where it was saved from destruction by the Nazis, and the "parochat" over the Ark of the Law was saved from the Jewish Rabbinical College at Cologne.—(Palcor.)

TEL-AVIV MUNICIPALITY CONDEMNS PUBLICATION OF GERMAN-HEBREW DAILY.

Jerusalem.

The publication of a German-Hebrew newspaper was condemned by the Tel-Aviv Municipal Council in a declaration to the effect that the press should be the chief supporter of the Hebrew language and that the new bilingual "Yediot Hada-shot" undermined the purely Jewish character of the town.

This statement was unanimously approved by the Councillors after an interview with a delegation of the Hebrew Language Committee, headed by Dr. Saul Tehernichovsky, the well-known Hebrew poet, who declared that the new publication was a disgrace to the town of which he was an honorary citizen.

Councillor Felix Rosenbluth, speaking on behalf of the Association of Jewish Settlers from Germany and Austria, supported the protest of the committee and deplored the publication of a German paper in Tel-Aviv.

The Mayor of Tel-Aviv, Mr. Israel Rokach, summed up the discussion and undertook to do everything in his power to discourage the publication.—J.T.A.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Many of the Australian soldiers who are now quartered in different parts of Palestine have fought in Palestine 24 years ago, or had fathers and brothers fighting in the British Army in the Near East, the J.T.A. here learns.

The Australian soldiers expressed a desire to study the country. Many of them had brought their Bibles with them, which, they said, were the best guides to the Holy Land.—J.T.A.

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA CONCERT IN CAIRO.

Jerusalem.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for the Dominions, Sir Miles Lampson, British Ambassador, and Lady Lampson were present at the concert given by the Palestine Symphony Orchestra in Cairo. Mr. Ignac Neumark was the conductor.

The performance was a tremendous success. The Egyptian press was full of praise of the high standard of playing achieved by the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.—J.T.A.

"CANDIDUS" PLEADS FOR ADMISSION OF REFUGEES TO PALESTINE.

London.

"Open Palestine to Jewish refugees," "Candidus," the distinguished contributor to the "Daily Sketch," pleads.

"It is strange that English people have never recognised that we have a contractual duty to Jewish refugees from Germany," "Candidus" writes. "That persecuted Jews have a refuge here is a point of honour with us. But we have undertaken a trust in Palestine to establish a National Home there for the Jews. The natural form which our sympathy with Jewish victims of Nazi persecution should take is to open Palestine to their immigration.

"Yet curiously, although we hold an international Mandate for the establishment of a Jewish Home in Palestine, Palestine has hardly been heard of in connection with this problem of the persecuted Jews.

"There are difficulties, of course, in Palestine, but they are difficulties largely of our own making. More vigorous handling of the Mandate would have gone far to cure the curse of anti-Semitism," he concludes.—J.T.A.

WARSAW "BUND" APPEAL TO SOCIALISTS.

London.

A dramatic call for help from Warsaw has reached the French Socialist headquarters in Paris from the "Bund," the Polish Jewish Labour Party, the "Daily Herald" reports from Paris.

"We hope," it says, "that these few words, sent to you from the prison which is Warsaw, where we are now cut off, will reach you. We send our fraternal greetings to the Socialists of the world. We have been isolated for four months, and are living in the most frightful conditions.

"Every day we are beaten, humiliated and persecuted. We are suffering hunger and cold, but we have not lost our faith in our Socialist ideals. We address this appeal to the world's Socialists. Help your brothers in Poland. Protest against the savage barbarity of the brutal invaders. This thing cannot last.

"The enemy wants to kill everything that we hold sacred. He wants to destroy physically the best of our forces. We are