

## Jewish Agency's Maritime Activities.

Jerusalem.

From a report recently issued by the Jewish Agency, it would seem that increasing attention is being paid by the Jewish Agency to the development of maritime activities and the fishing industry in which work it is being helped by the Palestine Maritime League.

The main items of the Jewish Agency's maritime programme at present are further efforts to increase Jewish labour in the ports of Palestine which is bound up with the training of labourers for such work, the development of Jewish shipping between Palestine and Mediterranean ports, and the training of Jewish youth in seamanship. This last-mentioned activity is carried on mainly by means of the Haifa Nautical College which is attached to the Hebrew Technicon in Haifa and was opened in 1938 in collaboration with the Maritime League. The College, which is also subsidised by the Jewish Agency, at present has 70 students training as naval officers, engineers and boat-builders.

The Jewish Agency has also done much to develop the fishing industry. The result has been an increase in the number of fishermen during the past year, and an increase of 230% in the fishing catch. Sea and lake fishing is being developed as an auxiliary occupation in agricultural settlements situated on the coasts or on the shores of the country's lakes.

During the past year the Jewish Agency expended more than £7,807 on the development of maritime activity and the fishing industry.

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### "LINES OF COMMUNICATION."

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serving with the Dukes, and has shared in the grand successes in all their operations against the Ites, and of which much has been chronicled in the Press.

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#### In Brief.

The Rev. Capt. W. Yesorsky, Jewish Chaplain with the 3rd Infantry Brigade, has now been appointed Jewish Chaplain to the 2nd Division with his headquarters at the 3rd Brigade.

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Camp services were held by Rev. I. Levinson, S.C.F., on Thursday, 27th ult., at the Motor Transport Camp, Sonderwater, and on Sunday, 30th ult., at the S.A.M.C. Camp.

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Rev. W. Yesorsky conducted a service on Friday, 28th ult., and was present at the interdenominational service on Goodwill Sunday, 30th ult., at Kaffir's Kraal.

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## Society of Jews and Christians.

### Mr. HARRY LEVIN ON "THE SPIRIT OF MODERN PALESTINE."

Before a large audience of members of the Society of Jews and Christians and their friends, Mr. Harry Levin spoke on "The Spirit of Modern Palestine" at the Cathedral Hall on Tuesday evening. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Right Reverend Bishop S. W. Lavis, D.D., Mr. G. W. Lyon presided.

If the present was a period of almost universal black-out for mankind in general, for the Jews, declared Mr. Levin, it was one of the blackest in their history. Yet there were gleams in the darkness showing that the creative mind and heart of man was still bent, undefeated, on their eternal tasks, and there were signs that the Jewish people, although beaten almost prostrate, yet refused to resign itself to calamity and death. The brightest gleam in the darkness engulfing the Jews was Palestine, where the second largest free Jewish community in the world was shouting defiance to all those bent on its destruction. Daily there were signs in Jewish Palestine of renewal and resurrection, of courage and faith.

There was no parallel in the history of colonisation to the developments in Palestine in the past quarter of a century. Its achievements were due not merely to the fact that the persecuted had found a haven of refuge, but mainly to a spiritual enthusiasm. In Palestine Jewry had refound its soul.

#### Cultural Life.

With the extraordinary material progress there was an unremitting care for matters of the mind and spirit. Palestine Jewry was conscious of the truth of General Smuts' utterance after the Balfour Declaration: "Your services to mankind are not yet ended. Your old historical mission is still before you, to testify to the great spiritual values of life."

There was an intimate connection, declared Mr. Levin, between the success of the Jewish agricultural settlements in Palestine and the recovery of Hebrew culture. To-day the very soul of Zionism was to be found in the settlements.

The distinctive Jewish concept of social justice was evident in many forms in modern Palestine, particularly on the land. The speaker illustrated this with a description of the life in the Kevutza (communal settlement), nationalisation of the land, and the principle of "self labour" in all the Zionist settlements.

Speaking of the recovery of Hebrew, one of Jewry's proudest achievements, Mr. Levin recounted the struggle for its adoption, and the process of adapting old words and coining new ones for modern use. Twelve thousand new words had been added since the revival of Hebrew had begun some 50 years ago.

In other lands of colonisation, settlers are so concerned with overcoming the hardships of nature and creating a new social life in backward conditions, con-

tinued the speaker, that generations pass before a national literature and art begins to appear. But in Palestine there was already the beginnings of a new Hebrew literature, drama and art, owing much to world influences, but growing along distinctive lines of its own. Mr. Levin described the wide variety of Hebrew book, newspaper and periodical publications, and the development of the Hebrew dramatic and graphic arts.

The greatest aesthetic achievement of Palestine was its musical life, and its peak the Symphony Orchestra, which played a part in the life of the people comparable to the performance of the tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides in ancient Athens.

Referring to the wide network of Hebrew schools, Mr. Levin said that in Palestine a school was considered as indispensable as bread. The crown of the educational system was the Hebrew University, the symbol of the Jewish Intellectual Renaissance. In 1933, with the beginning of the expulsion of the Jewish mind from European seats of learning, it started on a period of wide expansion. That was the first answer to Germany's relapse into barbarism. To-day its staff included many distinguished scholars and research workers, as well as students exiled from Europe. Part of the University's function was to be the carrier of Western knowledge to the East, as Jews had been the carriers of Eastern knowledge to Europe in the Middle Ages. In a wider sense this was also the function of the National Home in relation to the Arabs as a whole.

#### Arab-Jewish Co-operation.

Describing the opportunities that the Arabs have had for development during the past 25 years, the speaker mentioned that it was no accident that in those parts where Jewish colonisation was greatest the Arabs' advance had been greatest. Since the outbreak of the war, Arab-Jewish co-operation had been growing in many fields.

"No man thinks and no man sings only for his own people." Shakespeare and all lesser singers and all well-equipped thinkers are for all time and all people. In Palestine, where the Jew has found place in the midst of a national life of his own, where his head and imagination can create, eager to give the world of his best, there is a potential source of achievement which may be of incalculable general value. It is a matter of supreme importance for world culture, that while in the greater part of Europe thought is being strangled by Nazism, and the soul of man is being starved into sterility, in this small corner of Asia an ancient culture is being recovered and steadily developed by a little nation that was the first victim of Nazism. In the all-embracing darkness, this is an event of more than Jewish significance. It is a symbol for a better life for all men. It is one of the rare visible proofs to-day that there is something greater than the mailed fist."

A number of questions were put to Mr. Levin by members of the audience, to which he ably replied. Mr. S. R. Emer, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker for a remarkably informed and lucid address. The Chairman also expressed the Society's appreciation.