

MOBILISING PALESTINE'S AGRICULTURE.

(Continued from Page 555).

against drought. The abundant green and dried fodder which would then be available would not only provide amply for army needs but also leave large surpluses for local dairying and meat cattle raising. The irrigation development envisaged above is the key to a war-time programme of agricultural encouragement, the main heads of which are discussed below.

Dairy-Farming and Sugar-Beet.

The large increase in irrigated fodder area would lead to a marked advance in dairy farming, and make more milk and butter available. Increased supplies of cheap milk would guarantee a valuable source of protein for the nutrition of wide classes of the population.

Experiments made last year in several settlements in sugar beet cultivation (both under irrigation and on dry land) have shown excellent results. It may now be asserted that there is a highly promising future for the sugar-beet cultivation in this country. The large yields with high sugar content obtained under local conditions point to the profitability of sugar-beet cultivation even at the low prices prevailing before the war. If the land and necessary encouragement were now forthcoming we should be able within a short time to create a local sugar industry, freeing the country from its reliance on imports, valued at about £P333,000 in 1939.

The closing of former sources of supply has drawn attention to the development of the local pharmaceutical industry and the local cultivation of medicinal plants. Even preliminary investigation has made it evident that Palestine's vegetation resources are unusually wide and that most of the important medicinal plants are to be found in a wild state in the country. Experiments are being made in the meantime in several Jewish settlements with imported seeds of essential medical plants. These include Pyretrum, Anis, Phoeniculum, Carrum Carvi, Hyosciamus, Thymus, Salvia, and Digitalis. These are the first steps in the development of a new agricultural asset of great national value.

Agriculture is closely concerned with the development of industries which use agricultural raw materials for instance, by-products industries producing oils, jams and concentrates from fruit, sugar-refining, providing an outlet for sugar-beet cultivation, pharmaceutical industries, using local plants as raw materials, etc.

Some notable progress has already been made in Palestine in this direction. But

(Continued in Second Column).

"LINES OF COMMUNICATION."

(Continued from Page 552).

people who have suffered much at the hands of the Nazis and anti-Semites overseas, acted as a further inspiration to us to renew the struggle where we left off. I addressed them in Hebrew and assured them that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them to the very end."

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Hospitable Jews in Eritrea.

Captain Weinstein then tells me of a big Shevuos service held at the Palestinians' camp. This time our men went over to them, and once again there was a very enthusiastic re-union. Half the service was conducted by the Palestinians and half by the Springboks. On a visit to Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, the Padre found many Jewish families, most of them coming from Yemen and Aden. "They are very religious, friendly and hospitable," he says. "The joy of meeting us was very great, and they assured us that their homes would be open to us at all times. They, too, expressed admiration for the Jewish Community in South Africa, and paid high tribute to their generosity and aid in regard to all matters pertaining to Jewry."

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A Grove in Eretz Israel for the late Private Harry Miller.

The Jewish men in the Dukes' Battalion are planting a grove in Eretz Israel to honour the name of the late Harry Miller, who was the first of the Jewish men of an infantry brigade to die on active service.

(Continued from First Column).

its full scope has still to be exploited, not only for the benefit of Palestine but also of neighbouring countries.

The expansion of further such projects of agricultural development would necessitate capital investment of no very great magnitude, and most of these investments would produce results of immediate significance for the war-effort.

A comprehensive programme of agricultural encouragement and development which would enable Palestine farming to make its full contribution to the economic defence of the country and the promotion of its war effort, is its main present need.

Despite its small area Palestine is perhaps the richest Middle East arsenal of agricultural skill and knowledge. This must be made to serve fully the ends of victory.

Muizenberg Zionist Societies

Considering the very inclement weather the attendance of close on a hundred at the fortnightly Forum was very satisfactory indeed.

Mr. Natas' short talk on Dubnow and Mr. Rubik's introduction to Jewish Demography proved of great interest to a very attentive audience.

Mr. H. Rabinowitz's Jewish songs were delightful. Muizenberg Zionists are looking forward to a return visit by this talented and beautiful singer.

Rabbi E. Kirzner's brilliant lecture on "Perspectives of South African Jewry" was followed with close attention.

Messrs. C. Levinsohn, S. Schire, Bloch, Levy and Mrs. Movsovic participated in the discussion to which the lecturer replied.

Owing to the reception in honour of Dr. Goldstein on the 16th inst., the next Forum will be held on Thursday, 28th inst., instead of the 14th as originally contemplated.



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"And he will set up an ensign for the nations, And will assemble the dispersed of Israel, And gather together the scattered of Judah From the four corners of the earth."

Isaiah 11.12.

Dewars



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Whisky

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