

NEWS IN BRIEF

POPULATION OF PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

The population of Palestine is estimated at 1,676,571, as at the end of 1943, according to the Government Bulletin of Current Statistics issued at Jerusalem. The figure includes 66,553 Bedouin tribesfolk, but excludes members of the armed forces.

Of the settled population, 59.8 per cent. was Moslem, 31.2 per cent. Jewish, 8.2 per cent. Christian, and 0.8 per cent. "others." The natural increase during 1943 was 31,592 Moslems, 10,509 Jews, and 2,717 Christians, while the net increase by migration was provided by 1,831 Moslems, 7,995 Jews, and 1,380 Christians.

All three communities showed a preponderance of males over females: 1,039 for the Moslems, 1,031 for the Jews, and 1,026 males for the Christians, for every 1,000 females.

PALESTINE ADOPTS METRIC SYSTEM.

Jerusalem.

The standard international kilogram for weight, the litre for capacity, the metre for length, and the square metre and standard dunam (1,000 square metres) for surface measurement, have been made compulsory throughout Palestine with the enactment in the Government's official Gazette on August 17th of the Weights and Measures Ordinance amending and consolidating the law.

A complete set of regulations is given for operating the new metric system, which will replace the Turkish weights and measures hitherto obtaining in Palestine. A scale of these former weights and measures, such as kantars, rotls, okiehs and dirhems, with their metric equivalents, is given in an appendix to the new law.

RED ARMY MEN PASS THROUGH HAIFA.

Jerusalem.

Parties of Red Army men, prisoners of war repatriated from Italy (to which they were taken as forced labourers from Germany) after the Allied liberation, have been passing through Haifa on their way home to Russia. One such party of 40 officers and men were recently visitors at Ramat Jochanan, Keren Hayesod settlement named for Field Marshal Smuts. They were deeply interested in explanations of the form of collective and co-operative life among the pioneers of Eretz Israel, and expressed their amazement at the visible evidence of success. They were also told of Zionism and life in working Palestine.

Many of the soldiers originate from Kazakhstan, and entertained the Jewish settlers with their songs and dances.

Another party of men visited Yadgur settlement near Haifa. At the Haifa Workers' Council of the Histadruth, they were presented with a red flag on which was embroidered in Russian and Hebrew: "Gift of the Jewish Workers of Haifa to the Soviet soldiers on their way home."

ELECTIONS TO TEL-AVIV MUNICIPALITY.

Jerusalem.

Two memoranda, one from the Histadruth, Aliyah Chadasha and the Democratic Centre, and the other from Hapoel Hamizrachi, have been submitted to the District Commissioner urgently requesting the Government to expedite the appointment of an elections committee to arrange the long-overdue elections to the Tel Aviv Municipality.

The memoranda emphasise the radical changes that have taken place in the population and structure of Tel Aviv since the last elections were held. They also point out that the decision of the Council to nominate an electoral committee and to hold the elections in October, 1944, had not yet been carried out.

If the Government should appoint a statutory elections committee the poll cannot take

place until about April, 1945, as it will take some six months to prepare the election register which should contain nearly 80,000 names compared with 25,000 at the 1935 poll.

REFUGEE MUSICIAN CONDUCTS PALESTINE ORCHESTRA.

Jerusalem.

The Palestine Orchestra was recently conducted by Mr. Walter Pfeffer, a refugee musician who arrived from Athens some time ago. He was a pupil of Weingartner, and began his musical life in the Folk Opera Orchestra in Vienna. After the German "Anschluss," he went to Holland, and thence to Greece as Director of the Art Opera in Athens. He also conducted on various occasions in Switzerland, Belgium, France and Italy. Mr. Pfeffer spent four and a half years in Greece and was able to get away in a motor vessel in April this year.

ESTATES OF VICTIMS OF NAZIS IN POLAND.

London.

In the Polish National Council a bill dealing with the estates of victims of the Nazis has been instituted. According to this bill only the closest relatives of victims will have any claim to the estates, and in addition, all such claims will have to be placed within six months after Poland has been liberated and a new Polish Government appointed.

Any claims not complying with these regulations will be forfeited, and the estates will then automatically become the property of the Government. This will also apply to cases where no claim is made.

"NEW YORK MIRROR" ON WHITE PAPER.

New York.

The "New York Mirror" has published a strong editorial attack on the Palestine White Paper. It supports the representations made to the Dunbarton Oaks Conference that Palestine should be treated as a Jewish homeland.

POSITION OF BULGARIAN JEWS.

Istanbul.

The economic position of the Bulgarian Jews is very serious. Forty per cent. of the Jewish population are being fed in public soup-kitchens. Many are unable to return from the ghettos to their previous homes. The position has been aggravated with the approach of winter.

Mr. Passman, the representative of the J.D.C., has left for Palestine to plan relief in conjunction with the Jewish Agency. The Zionists are most active and are now publishing a daily newspaper "Zion."

MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE FILLED.

Moscow.

Officers and men of the Red Army and the Red Fleet were among the thousands of worshippers who attended the High Festival services at the Choral Synagogue here.

The synagogue was filled to capacity and overflow services were held in the aisles, in the adjoining halls and in the street.

NAZI CRIMINALS IN RUMANIA TO BE TRIED.

Istanbul.

The Soviet occupation authorities have already set up special courts in Bucharest and in several provincial cities to deal with Jew-baiters and terrorists. A high Soviet official of Czernowitz, Baruch Rabinowiz, who is a Jew, is supervising the proceedings in Bucharest. He is being assisted by a Jewish lawyer, Max Pauker.

Unknown persons, believed to be Nazis and members of the Iron Guard, placed a bomb in the Great Synagogue in Bucharest. The missile was timed to explode during the Saturday morning service when the synagogue was

(Continued in Third Column).

"FIVE ROSES" TEA



While war conditions have reduced the quantity available, no will ever induce us to lower quality of "Five Roses"

(Continued from Second Column).

crowded with Jews, including officers and of the Russian army. Fortunately the was discovered before the service and the plosion was averted.

UNNRA SPECIAL RELIEF MEASURES FOR JEWS.

Montreux

The Unnra Policy Committee passed resolution declaring that Unnra would tute special relief measures to assist Jews liberated territories.

The major Jewish organisations have formulated a unified programme for submission the Unnra Committee asking for the repation of Jews to their former homes, assistance for displaced persons in enemy and enemy territories, as well as for the victims of the Nazi regime prior to the outbreak of war.

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