

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NEW APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT IN HAIFA METAL INDUSTRY.

Jerusalem.

For the first time in Palestine, a collective agreement has been reached between employers and workers governing the conditions of industrial apprenticeship. The agreement has been signed by the metal branch of the Palestine Manufacturers' Association in Haifa and by the local Metal Workers' Union and the local branch of the Working Youth Organisation. The two parties to the agreement are establishing an Apprentices' Supervisory Committee which is drawing up a list of enterprises where apprentices are to be permitted.

The agreement provides that apprentices below the age of 18 will work 8 hours a day and will receive a paid annual leave of 12 days. Apprentices will also receive one hour off on full pay two or three days a week for the purpose of attending evening courses. It is provided that apprentices cannot resign or be dismissed without the approval of the Committee. The agreement covers firms employing 200 apprentices.

### JOURNALISTS' RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF MR. BEN ZVI.

Jerusalem.

The first Jewish press workers' co-operative in Palestine was formed in Jerusalem over 50 years ago, Mr. I. Ben Zvi told journalists at a reception in his honour in Jerusalem on 17th December.

When he arrived in Jerusalem in 1904, Mr. Ben Zvi said, Hebrew periodicals published there included "Hashkafa" ("Opinion") edited and published by Eliezer Ben Yehuda; "Haor" ("The Light"), and "Herout" ("Freedom").

The first Jewish labour publication in Jerusalem was published in Yiddish and was illegal. Its slogan, later to become that of the Third International, was "Workers of the world, unite."

### PROF. KESTENBERG RESIGNS FROM PALESTINE ORCHESTRA.

Jerusalem.

It is understood that Prof. Leo Kestenberg, the musical director of the Palestine Orchestra, has cabled his resignation to Mr. Bronislaw Huberman.

The local management of the Orchestra's affairs is at present in the hands of the General Secretary, Mr. Levertoff, who is in consultation with the committee of the musicians.

### YISHUV'S CONTRIBUTION TO KEREN HAYESOD.

Jerusalem.

At the Zionist Conference in Tel Aviv, Mr. Israel Rytov, Chairman of the Palestine Keren Hayesod Committee, reported that during the past year the Yishuv had contributed £193,000

to the Keren Hayesod compared with £21,600 at the beginning of the war. The amount raised during the past three years exceeded that contributed by the Yishuv during the entire period of the preceding 18 months.

### COMMUNIST WEEKLY IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

"Kol Ha'am" (The Voice of the People), the organ of the Palestine Communist Party, has received an official licence from the Palestine Government. The paper has appeared for some considerable time as an unlicensed publication although, since the entry of Russia into war, the police have taken no measures against its distribution.

In a leading article in its first issue, the paper wrote that it would fight against "the illusion of a Jewish State in the whole of Palestine."

### MATZOTH TO BE SENT TO RUSSIA.

Jerusalem.

Permission has been received by the Committee to Aid Rabbis and Yeshiva Students who are refugees in Soviet Russia to send them 2,500 packages of matzoth for the coming Passover.

The permit, which was obtained through the efforts of Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, Chairman of the Committee, enables packages of two kilograms each to be sent to the rabbis and yeshiva students. The consignment will leave in the near future.

### REFUGEES INSTALLED IN BNEI BRAK.

Jerusalem.

A few hours after 120 patients had been moved from the Home for the Insane at Bnei Brak, to the new Government Mental Hospital in the Arebich quarter, south of Jaffa, a convoy of lorries drove up to the scene and 53 homeless refugees took over the premises. They offered to pay rent to the proprietors, Messrs. Padonsky and Shidlovsky, who refused to take the money.

The refugees, who came from Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, were released from the Athlit Clearance Camp and had been living in air-raid shelters, apartment-house corridors, or with relatives.

The managing committee of the Insane Home permitted the refugees to use the furniture, and offered bedding and other facilities. Neighbours warmly welcomed them and housewives brought pots of food they had prepared for their own Sabbath meals.

### REPRESENTATION OF DISSIDENT GROUPS IN ASSEPHAT HANIYCHARIM.

Jerusalem.

In the event of the Vaad Leumi offering adequate representation to the dissident groups which did not participate in the Asse-

phat Hanivcharim elections, the proposal be considered by the organisations concerned.

This decision, which is regarded as of readiness on the part of the boycott change their previous attitude, was a result of a meeting of the National Council Union of General Zionists.

Dr. Schmorak addressed the Council on the political situation.

### ARTHUR KOESTLER IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Arthur Koestler, the well-known author now on a visit to Palestine. He is reported to have stated that English public opinion is incomparably more favourable to Zionism than those who make public opinion, intellectuals and journalists who a few years ago opposed Zionism as a solution to the problem, have now revised their opinion. "I do not favour, he declared, the return of Jews to the countries out of which they have been driven."

### REPATRIATION OF TRANSNISTRIAN INTERNEES.

New York.

General Sergai Vinogradov, head of the Allied Armistice Commission, informed the leaders here that the 9,000 Rumanian Transdnistria would shortly be repatriated. The Rumanian Government, he said, has appointed a Commission, including representatives of the Union of Rumanian Jews, to receive the repatriates and aid their habilitation.

It is expected that the 400,000 dollars required for relief during the first few months will be allocated by the Joint Distribution Committee.

### PARIS MEMORIAL TO JEWISH RESISTANCE.

Several hundred people braved cold rain in December to assemble at the cemetery of Puteaux, outside Paris, for a memorial service to 50 Jews who were slain in France in December, 1941, at Mont Valerien, along with 60 French patriot resistants, in a reprisal.

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