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ERETZ ISRAEL**GENERAL NEWS**

(per J.T.A., P. and Private Source)

Yishuv Now Numbers Over 410,000 Souls

LAST YEAR SAW SETTLEMENT WORK WORTH HALF A MILLION POUNDS

Jerusalem, January 20th.

SOME thirty thousand Jews migrated to Palestine during 1936, bringing the Jewish population up to a total of about 410,000.

During the fiscal year ending in October last the Jewish Agency expended half a million pounds for settlement activities.

This information is contained in a report issued by the Keren Hayesod (Palestine Foundation Fund) here today.

The largest part of the Jewish Agency's budget is provided by the Keren Hayesod. Besides agricultural colonisation, immigration and immigrant training, housing and public works and the security provisions during the recent disturbances, the Agency spent huge sums on educational and cultural activities and on trade and industry.

Established individual-holding colonies were consolidated, the report notes, and new colonisation initiated during the year. Sums were spent to consolidate co-operative settlements on building, irrigation, maintenance of girls' agricultural training farms, aid to middle-class colonisation and maintenance of agricultural service.

The Keren Hayesod does whatever possible to increase the economic absorptive capacity of the land. In this direction it has continually been extending loans for the erection of workers' dwellings, road building and improvements.

ARAB MODERATES FAVOUR CO-OPERATION SCHEME

Jerusalem, January 19th.

A GROUP of prominent Arabs are reported to have been opposed to the Grand Muftis memorandum on Palestine which was submitted to the Royal Commission before it left the country.

This group of Arab moderates favour a Legislative Council, in which the rights of Jews and Arabs will be protected; appointment of a permanent commission, including Arabs, Jews and Britons, to regulate immigration, introduction of effective security measures to eliminate the present lawlessness and maintenance of the British mandate.

BRITISH M.P.'S TO SUPPORT THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME.

Jerusalem, January 21st.

AT a reception in the Emek to-day given in honour of Mr. J. McGovern and Mr. Campbell Stephen, the two Independent Labour Party members of the British Parliament, these gentlemen stated that they would give their full support to the upbuilding of the national home and would demand unrestricted immigration.

VALUABLE TRAINING CENTRE

Graduation Day at the "Henrietta Szold School for Training Nurses" which does valuable work in medical training in the Yishuv. The photograph shows Miss Szold herself presenting a diploma to a successful graduate.

BANK DEPOSITS TOP THE 14 MILLION MARK

Government Bulletin Reports
Thriving Financial Conditions

Jerusalem, January 19th.

JUMPING up £30,000 in one month, the deposits in the so-called "foreign" banks of Palestine amounted to £14,140,146 at the end of October, 1936. In addition, the deposits of Jewish co-operative credit institutions in the country totalled £2,642,053.

The so-called "foreign" banks are banking institutions other than the local banks of Palestine.

Among the "foreign" banks is included the Anglo-Palestine Bank, an English financial institution, whose deposits amounted to 7½ million pounds in October. There are also included Barclays Bank, Ottoman Bank, the Banca di Roma, the Dutch-Union Bank and the Polish Bank.

This information is revealed in the latest Bulletin of the Government Statistical Bureau, which mentions that there are seventy local banks besides the "foreign" banks.

It is further reported that during October, 1936, 1,264 dunams of land passed into Jewish hands, worth £7,314. In the course of the first ten months of the year, 16,700 dunams of land were bought by Jews, for which £89,315 was paid. During the same period the Government bought 1,278 dunams of land, the municipalities 29 dunams, and the churches, monasteries and European individuals, 3,058 dunams.

FAMOUS PIANIST IN PALESTINE

Jerusalem, January 20th.

MR. WILHELM BUSCH, the famous pianist, is to give concerts in Palestine.

Mr. Busch, who is a non-Jew, left Germany with the advent of the Nazi regime, and, although a German by birth, denied his German blood and adopted the Swiss nationality.

He has already arrived in Palestine where he will play with the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ENTERTAINED

Jerusalem, January 17th.

A FAREWELL dinner given to-night by the Commissioner, Sir Arthur W. Hope, at Government House, to the members of the Royal Commission. Those present included Emir Abdullah, Colonel Cox, British Resident of Transjordan, Pasha Hashim, the Prime Minister of the Transjordan, Dr. Morris Hexter, of the Jewish Agency, General Dill, the French Consul and a number of Government officials.

ARAB PAPER URGES LONDON DELEGATION

Jerusalem, January 20th.

AFTER analysing the Arab evidence before the Royal Commission "El Liwa," the official organ of the Mufti of Jerusalem, demands that an Arab delegation be sent to London in order to exercise influence over the British public opinion before the publication of the Royal Commission's report.

LABOUR DELEGATION WELCOMED

Jerusalem, January 17th.

THE American Labour delegation was welcomed at a reception given in its honour by the Jewish National Fund here. Mr. M. Ussishkin, the President of the Jewish National Fund, presided, and urged the delegation to carefully observe the work of the National Fund, which he said was "the greatest pride of the Jewish workers." "You yourselves will appreciate the work done by the Jewish settlers in their National Home."

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