

GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL REVIEW

Million Pounds Spent on Public Works

THE report of the Palestine Government Public Works Department for the period of April 1, 1935, to March 31, 1936, has now been issued. The report reveals that a sum of £124,139 went into constructive projects during that year.

Mr. Fawcett Pudsey's report shows that his Department has been spending increasing sums of money since the fiscal years of 1932-33.

Expenditure in 1932-33 amounted to £10,021, giving an increase of 178 per cent. in 1935-36; £582,625 in 1934-35, or an increase of 93 per cent. in 1935-36; and rose to £843,979 in 1936-37, which was 33 per cent. less than the following year, 1935-36.

The distribution of the total expenditure during 1935-36 showed that Public Works Recurrent (maintenance and upkeep, of which £123,000 went for roads and bridges), amounted to £289,475, while Public Works Extraordinary totalled £554,036. Loan Works were carried out to the value of £276,556.

It is of interest to note that the Government on March 31 last year, maintained all-weather roads (excluding arterial roads in municipal areas) of about 1,401 kilometres and all-weather tracks of about 700 kilometres, the average annual expenditure upon the former being £91 per kilometre and upon the latter, just over £5 per kilometre.

Items of initial outlay were mostly devoted to communication, the sum being £212,000 being spent on roads and bridges. Building and other works amounted to £93,000. These works included the expense of £16,000 for the Acre Stud Farm, the Haifa Quarantine Station, as well as sundry works for the Department of the Police and Prisons and Posts and Telegraphs. Under the heading of "Miscellaneous" which totalled £5,000 over £11,000 was spent in developing the Haifa reclaimed area.

Loan works mainly included £33,550 on the Jerusalem water supplies; £20,000 on village water supplies; and £16,490 on the construction of the Trade School at Haifa. During the year, the sum of £14,700 was disbursed upon various preliminary works on the General Post Office, the construction of the new buildings of which started in September, 1935.

INTERESTING FACTS

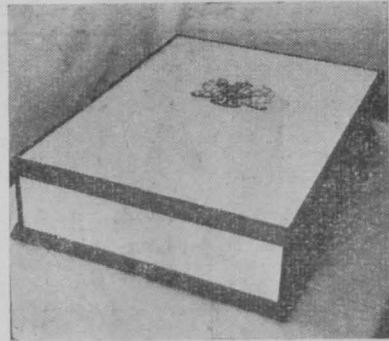
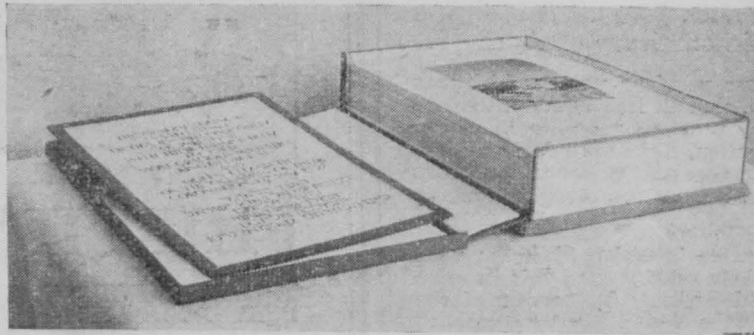
REGARDING THE PALESTINE ORCHESTRA

At the 48 concerts given by the Palestine Symphony Orchestra this season, 80,000 persons have attended.

Further figures show that of 7,000 subscribers to the regular concerts, only 2,426 are members of the Association and 1,500 of these members are in Tel-Aviv. The other 900 members are scattered over the rest of the country.

The General Secretary of the Association, Mr. Levertov, states that special courses in Hebrew have been arranged for members of the Orchestra because only 17 of the 70 members are Palestinians.

YISHUV'S PRESENTATION TO THE KING AND QUEEN



Among the Yishuv's Coronation presentations to the King and Queen was this magnificent casket of photographs. The casket is covered with white parchment, bound in red, and lined with plush. The inscription of presentation, which is printed in English and Hebrew, reads: "The General Council (Vaad Leumi) of the Jewish Community of Palestine, with their humble duty to their Most Gracious Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth, on the occasion of Their Coronation."

MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMEMORATES OUTBREAK OF DISTURBANCES

Jerusalem, May 5th.

A MEMORIAL service marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the disturbances in Palestine according to the Jewish calendar, took place to-day at the Yeshurun Synagogue in Jerusalem. There was a large attendance, and the speakers included Chief Rabbi Dr. Herzog, Rabbi Levy, a Sephardic Rabbi, and Mr. Ussishkin. Chief Rabbi Dr. Herzog, in the course of his address, made a striking appeal to the world, and particularly to Great Britain, to do justice to the Jewish people and to make amends to Jewry for the cruel wrongs it has suffered throughout the centuries. Mr. Ussishkin, in his address, said that the innocent Jewish victims that fell as a result of the disturbances, must not be in vain. The great sacrifices must be a stimulus for greater Jewish national creation.

ARAB FORGERY IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, May 4th.

JEWISH councillors of the Jerusalem Municipality discovered a forgery in the records of the Municipality. It appears that an Arab secretary of the Municipality had added without authority several names to the list of roads that are to be constructed. The secretary alleges that he had been ordered by an Arab councillor to do it. The authorities are investigating the matter.

ARAB OPPOSITION TO PARTITION

Jerusalem, May 6th.

THE Arab Higher Committee, following a meeting which took place to-day, issued a statement in which it strongly opposes any partition of Palestine. It is pointed out in the statement that the Arabs insist on the complete fulfilment of demands presented to the Royal Commission. These demands, it will be remembered, include a complete stoppage of Jewish immigration, the prohibition of the sale of land to Jews, and the establishment of an Arab National Government.

IRAQ PREMIER CONDEMNS PARTITION

Jerusalem, May 5th.

THE Arab newspaper "Al Islamia" publishes an interview with the Premier of Iraq in regard to the reported proposal of dividing Palestine into Arab and Jewish States. The Premier, the paper says, has expressed opposition to such a proposal, pointing out that it would be contrary to the interests of the Arabs.

PETACH TIKVAH'S FIRST BUDGET

Jerusalem, May 5th.

THE Municipality of Petach Tikvah, which has recently been formed, has adopted its first budget according to which it is estimated that there will be £30,000 expenditure for the coming year and £33,000 revenue.

CIVILISATION COMES TO HULEH

Annual Meeting of Palestine Land Development Company

Jerusalem, May 3rd.

THE annual general meeting of the Palestine Land Developing Co., Ltd., unanimously adopted the report for the year ended December 1, 1936.

The dividend on the ordinary shares amounts to eight per cent., and on the preference shares six per cent.; three per cent. has already been paid on both ordinary and preferred shares. The balance of three and one-third per cent. on ordinary and preference shares respectively, will be paid on May 15.

Dr. Thon, in reviewing the activities of the company, said that the Huleh was an instance of the difference in the attitude between the Arab leaders and the Jewish institutions towards suffering Arab peasants. Before the conclusion of the contract between the Palestine Land Developing Company and the former owners of the Huleh concession, Arab leaders visited the Huleh and noted the miserable living conditions of the Arab cultivators in the swamps. They did nothing, however, to improve these conditions.

The Palestine Land Developing Company, on the other hand, agreed to sacrifice more than £200,000 by giving more than a quarter of the area, drained and irrigated, to these Arab cultivators.

"We ought not," said Dr. Thon, "to regret sacrifice. This is a new way of working which has to be pursued and which we hope may lead to the disappearance of anti-Jewish hostility among the Arabs and to the establishment of close and friendly co-operation between Jews and Arabs for the general good of the country."

PROGRESS OF THE RUTENBERG ELECTRIC WORKS

New Power House on the Yarkon

Jerusalem, May 4th.

THE Palestine Electric Corporation has erected a temporary wooden bridge from Tel-Aviv across the river Yarkon, where a new power house is being constructed by the company at a cost of half a million pounds. The new power house will bear the name of Reading. It is hoped that this development will be an impetus for the extension of the northern part of the city.

ADDITIONAL JEWISH DISTRICT OFFICER

Jerusalem, May 5th.

AS a result of the repeated representations made by the Jewish Agency to the Government, an additional Jewish District Officer has been appointed in the northern district. It is further reported that another special Jewish officer will shortly be appointed in the Hedera district.