

## The Promotion of Hebrew Culture.

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD.

London.

A conference of representatives of societies and institutions engaged in Hebrew cultural work, and of prominent workers in this field in the Diaspora countries is to be convoked by the recently-formed Council for the Promotion of the Hebrew Movement, which has its seat in London.

The decision to convoke the conference was taken by the constituent meeting of representatives of different Zionist organisations and men interested in Hebrew cultural work under the chairmanship of Dr. Nahum Sokolow, the head of the Department of Hebrew Culture of the World Zionist Organisation.

Dr. Sokolow, in his opening statement, stressed that very much had been achieved in Palestine during the last twenty-five years, but there was still a lot to be done. Even greater still was the need for Hebrew culture in the Diaspora. If they took account of the cultural situation of the Jews all over the Diaspora it was clear to everybody that something decisive must be done in addition to what they were doing according to the best of their limited abilities for the economic improvement in Palestine. He appealed to everyone to take interest in this very important matter of the Hebrew revival in all its aspects. He was not going to give a full programme, but explained that they were planning an international Congress to be held in London, which would be attended by a number of representatives of institutions and scholars, and also of the London Executive of the Brit Ivrit Olamit and of the Bialik Foundation.

Mr. Leon Simon said that he was convinced that the Hebrew movement would not progress until it went beyond the present narrow circles. With the appointment of Dr. Sokolow as head of the Cultural Department, he felt that the time had come to make a great determined effort and to enlist the sympathy of wider circles.

Mr. Simon proposed a number of resolutions, welcoming the appointment of Dr. Sokolow as head of the Culture Department of the Zionist Organisation and constituting a Council for the Promotion of the Hebrew Movement.

The Council, according to the resolution, is to work in close co-operation with the Culture Department of the Zionist Organisation under Dr. Sokolow, with the Council of the B'rit Ivrit Olamit in London, and with the Bialik Institute, and, as a first step towards the better organisation and co-ordination of Hebrew work in the Diaspora, it is to call together at an early date a conference of representatives of societies and institutions engaged in Hebrew cultural work, and of prominent workers in this field, in the Diaspora countries. The date and place of the conference shall be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the bodies mentioned in the resolution and the Council.

The Council also resolved to raise a fund, if possible of £1,000, to cover the expense of the conference and of the initial work of organisation.—J.T.A.

## Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

### TOSCANINI TO CONDUCT FIRST CONCERT.

London.

Arturo Toscanini, the world-famous orchestral conductor, has accepted an invitation to conduct the opening concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra on October 24th, it was announced by Bronislaw Hubermann, the famous violinist who organised the orchestra.

Mr. Toscanini has cancelled all American engagements except three and will not return to New York next season, in order to be able to fulfil this engagement in Palestine. In addition to the opening concert he will conduct several others.

In announcing the maestro's acceptance of the invitation to conduct in Palestine, Mr. Hubermann declared that his acceptance "constitutes a historical mark both in the struggle against Nazism and the upbuilding of Palestine."

Mr. Toscanini has on several occasions manifested his deep sympathy for the Jews in connection with their persecution by Germany and has expressed his sense of outrage at discriminations against musicians in Germany for political and racial reasons.

In April, 1933, he attracted international attention by his telegram of protest addressed directly to Hitler, and he rejected an invitation to conduct at the Beirut Wagner Festival in protest against Nazi discriminations.—J.T.A.

## Jewish National Farmers' Federation Conference.

Tel-Aviv.

A Conference of the Jewish National Farmers' Federation under the chairmanship of Samuel Zochovitzky opened here. The addresses and debate emphasized the activity of these farmers in employing Jewish labour only, which had led to the split with the Jewish Farmers' Union headed by Mr. M. Smilansky.

The Federation has seven hundred members and has a collective contract with the General Jewish Labour Association.

The speakers pointed out an improvement in the productivity of Jewish labourers. Mr. Zochovitzky announced that activity would commence of the National Farmers Bank, established by the Jewish Agency, which would extend loans repayable in sixteen years.

Greetings were conveyed by Mr. I. Gruenbaum on behalf of the Jewish Agency and Dr. A. Goldstein for the Keren Hayesod. The resolutions adopted included emphasis on the value of Jewish labour in agriculture and protests against the Legislative Council and land restrictions. A new central committee was elected.—(Palcor).

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## Soil Research Institute Inaugurated.

Rehoboth.

The Soil Research Institute Building, donated by General Wauchope, has been formally inaugurated. It is situated between the Jewish Agency's Agricultural Experiment Station and the Sieff Institute. Members of the Governments Executive Council were also present.

Dr. I. Wilkansky opened the proceedings and dwelt on the function and importance of the Institute to the country. Dr. Magazanik, directors of the Laboratory, followed. Dr. Weizmann, in his address, emphasised that the country was poor in natural resources, and needed more than any other country research in science which was immediately applied to the fields. Moreover research was necessary in order to colonise many people. He thanked General Wauchope for his interest and assistance.

The High Commissioner, in replying, thanked Dr. Wilkansky for his service to scientific research. The latter was most important to agriculture, and also indirectly to the cities. General Wauchope stressed the fact that Jewish organisations had achieved most significant development for agriculture. He then unveiled an inscription above the door of the Institute, and with other guests went into the laboratory where he lit the first Bunsen burner in the section where the work to be done is an analysis of Huleh soil. Prior to his departure, General Wauchope walked alone and conversed at length with Dr. Weizmann. He also visited the Pri-Hadar orange juice factory at Rehovoth.—(Palcor).

## Arab Gangster Committed for Trial.

Jenin.

Eight Arab gangsters charged with carrying out lawless acts in the northern district, were committed for trial at the Criminal Assizes by the examining magistrate here, Mr. W. Clive Curry, Chief British Magistrate at Jerusalem.

The magistrate heard forty-five prosecution witnesses in the three days of preliminary examination. The gangsters brought no defence witnesses. There were three charges against them: (1) Conspiracy to murder members of the Jewish community in Palestine; (2) the murder of Sergeant Rosenfeld and the attempted murder of an Arab constable; and (3) the murder of British Constable Reginald Mott and the attempted murder of British Constable Frank Reader, last November.

Some of the Arab witnesses, who had previously given evidence to the police in which they condemned the gangsters as having committed the outrages, withdrew or changed their testimony before the police, apparently fearing reprisals if they confirmed their evidence. Two of them are to be tried for perjury. One of the terrorists confessed and pleaded for mercy.—(Palcor).

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