

A LETTER FROM ERETZ ISRAEL

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Jerusalem, 12th August, 1936.

Haifa Port is Kept Open.

That which the most persuasive of the Arab leaders have been trying to accomplish without success from the outbreak of the disturbances is now being accomplished by the simple but highly effective weapon of intimidation. The Arab workers of the Haifa Port are joining the strike. The Mufti, the Christian Arab leader, Alfred Rock, and several others spent three days in Haifa in a concerted effort to break the resistance of the Arab workers at the port. But they failed, for the workers knew that the day they struck their places would be filled with Jews.

But resistance in the face of violent intimidation is another matter, and the efforts of the terrorists who have been planted in Haifa during the past week have yielded their fruit. The trouble began with a series of threatening letters to the workers at the Haifa railway workshops, followed by personal visits to the homes of their leaders. The following day, last Saturday, found a large number of the workshop employees absent from their jobs. The port workers came next, and after them the railway, postal and public works employees. The most brazen methods of pressure were brought to bear, such as forcing workers to descend from trains on their way to work, the abduction of workers and their release only when they promised to abstain from working, personal "interviews" with workers' wives, and the bombing of workers en route for their places of work. The authorities have arrested some 30 of the intimidators, but that is merely a fraction of their number.

The essential public services have not suffered, however, for as soon as an Arab worker struck, a Jew was ready to take his place. In the past few days over 300 Jewish workers have been taken on at the port; to-morrow an additional 100 will be employed and more will be available the next day, if required. Stevedoring and lighterage, both branches formerly purely Arab preserves, are to-day being carried out exclusively by Jewish labour. Yesterday six boats were off-loaded by these Jews without a hitch. And port foremen have been brought to the Haifa port from the Tel Aviv "port."

Similarly with the other public services. Fifty Jews filled the places of Arab strikers on the railways at Haifa as engine-drivers and stokers. How was so comparatively large a number of Jewish engine-drivers found at a moment's notice? That is something that no one quite understands. Some of them—whisper it not in Gath!—had never touched a railway engine in their lives, but they were skilled engineers in Germany and a day's hard study provided them with the additional knowledge they required. Others were brought from the Dead Sea works, where they had driven the little engines that carry the potash and other salts from the Dead Sea to the factory. Stoking, of course, was easy, a profession instilled, as it were, in Jews from birth. And all of them were brought together from different parts of the country in 24 hours by a single great organising hand, the Histadruth.

The Iraq Petroleum Company, which has distinguished itself in the past by its parsimonious employment of Jews, has also been obliged to call for Jewish labour, and Jewish labour responded. With war looming again on the horizon, the I.P.C. has been working at fullest pressure, and it could ill have afforded to lie low until the Arab strikers chose to return.

Will the Government and the I.P.C. draw the proper conclusions, and permit Jews, who have enabled them at this juncture to continue functioning normally, to take a greater share in their employment in the future than in the past? There are pessimists who doubt it, and their number is not small.

Tasteful and Effective Publicity.

The drive for *Tozereth Haaretz* has given scope and opportunity to a number of artists, many of them German immigrants; and the careful observer notes with satisfaction the marked advance recorded latterly in Palestine in the art of advertisement publicity. There was a time when the commercial artist was hardly known in the country, and that not so far back. The Levant Fair, a few of the larger factories and the national institutions employed professional designers for their propaganda and advertising work, but there was hardly a living in it for more than one or two small firms, and commercial artists of ability came to the country and left again after a while in despair.

All that has now changed. The public is more critical than it used to be, competition is keener, and the scale of business and manufacture has grown considerably. The commercial artist and designer has come into his own.

Among the posters, banners and stamps that have been issued in connection with the *Tozereth Haaretz* drive are some of outstanding specimens. The Union of Jewish Shipping Lines have produced some simple but beautiful and effective posters, so has the Shemen oil and soap factory, a new pharmaceutical manufactory, and *Tenuva*, the co-operative sales agency of the produce of the *kvutzoth* and *moshavim*. Humour, too, has come into its own at last in this sphere; one witty poster is that showing figures of Hitler and a Japanese labelled "dumper of cheap goods" attempting to throttle the infant *Tozereth Haaretz*, while its nurse, *Yishub*, lies quietly asleep in the background. This advertisement, which calls attention to a national danger so amusingly and yet so arrestingly, is bound to have more effect than the half-dozen long-winded proclamations that would have been issued in such circumstances six or eight years ago.

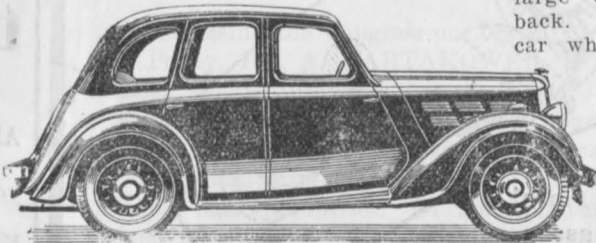
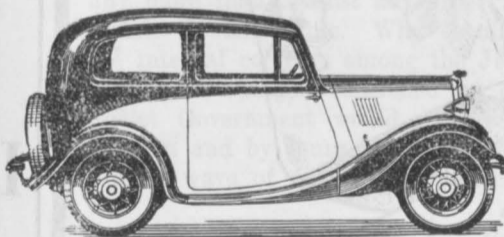
Oriental Halutzim.

If there are those who believe that *Halutzim* come only from the countries of the West, the recent establishment, and during the period of the disturbance, too, of a Yemenite *kibbutz* near Rishon-le-Zion, will come as a corrective. There are nearly 30 members of this new group, and they are settling down together instead of scattering among other groups, in order to serve as a centre of attraction for other Yemenites, particularly from Tel Aviv.

(Continued on Next Page).

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There were some among them of whom it was never expected that they would become men of the soil, and others who, while accustomed to hard physical labour, such as portering and stone-breaking, had lived all their lives in an essentially urban atmosphere. But they have settled down together and are proving their worth. Most of them are still in the period of *Hachshara* (training), but there are a few among them who have had expert agricultural experience, and they, together with the agricultural supervisors, appointed by the *Mercaz Haklai* (Agricultural Council of the Labour Federation), are training the other settlers to become full-fledged farmers. The doubts that were expressed as to the adaptability of Yemenite Jews to co-operative living have rapidly been dissipated by this experiment which, though still in its early stages, seems to be an unquestioned success.

Nor are these the only Oriental *Halutzim* on the land. There are groups whose members hail from Damascus, Salonica, Egypt, and, of course, Palestinian-born Sephardim, as well.

Musical Prospects.

All the arts are keenly cultivated in Palestine, but none more, perhaps, than music. There is a large number of good professional and amateur musicians, while every visiting musician has testified to the keenness and appreciation of the Palestinian public.

Concerts have been plentiful during the past season, and during the present summer, when, ordinarily, music and the drama would have a dull time, they were only slightly less numerous wherever curfew regulations do not exist to stifle them. And this in spite of the disturbances which might reasonably be expected to drive all other thoughts from the mind of the Yishuv!

On the same pages of the Hebrew press that announce the seemingly never-ending disorders, advertisements appear daily of the forthcoming concerts of the new Palestine Symphony Orchestra. Arturo Toscanini, who has turned his back on the Bayreuth of the Third Reich, but who is glad to come to Palestine to inaugurate the work of his friend and colleague, Bronislav Hubermann, will conduct the opening festival of the Orchestra's first season. He will be followed by other great guest-conductors. The granting yesterday of 40 immigration certificates out of the reserve of the schedule kept back for emergencies by the Government (and not, as was commonly and justifiably expected, out of the Government's own supplies) for some of the musicians who will join the Orchestra, brings this great event in the artistic life of the Yishuv a stage nearer. When, in the autumn, the new Jewish Symphonic Orchestra will for the first time play Beethoven's and Mozart's immortal music, may brighter and more peaceful days ensure the Yishuv the repose of spirit needful to listen to them with due devotion and joy!

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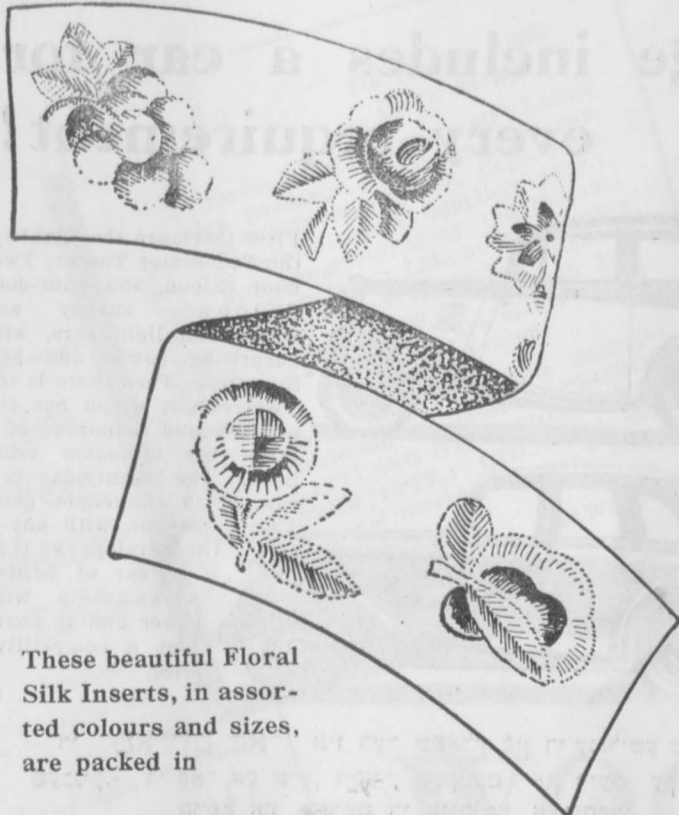
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