

# EXTENSION OF YISHUV'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

## Notable Progress During Initial War Period

Jerusalem, January 23rd.

ACCORDING to figures published by the Economic Research Institute of the Jewish Agency, supported by Keren Hayesod funds, Jewish mixed-farming showed notable progress during the initial war-time period, and in spite of the many difficulties, there was extension of production in various spheres.

### J.N.F. Planted 285,000 Trees in 1939

Jerusalem, January 23rd.

WITH the planting of 285,132 trees by the Jewish National Fund in the year ending September 30, 1939, the total woodlands under its control comprised 2,839,156 trees on an area of 11,734 dunams in 28 centres. Eight of these forests are over 100,000 trees each; Kfar Hahoresh—600,000 trees; Ginigar—400,000; Kiriath Anavim—268,000; Mishmar Haemek—247,000; Shaar Ha'Amakim—240,000; Ramat Jochanan—160,000; Nahalal—132,000, and Ben Shemen—111,000.

### JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

Jerusalem, January 21st.

THE elections to the Jerusalem Municipal Council, which were to have been held this month, have been postponed indefinitely. This decision has been communicated to the Municipality on behalf of the High Commissioner.

It is reported that although the Jerusalem Municipal Council will remain in office, the possibility of a change in the Mayoralty is not precluded.

The number of the Jewish residents of Jerusalem, it will be recalled, is estimated at 82,000, which is more than two-thirds of the total population of the capital.

### RABBI'S VISIT TO ROME

Jerusalem, January 19th.

PROFESSOR Davido Prato, former Chief Rabbi of Rome, has left Tel-Aviv by air for Rome. In a statement to "Haboker," Professor Prato said that the object of his visit to Rome was to discuss with the Vatican and the Italian Government the position of Polish Jewish refugees in Italy.

Milk production during the first three months of the European war (September-November, 1939, inclusive) amounted to 8,200,000 litres from Jewish dairy farms in Keren Hayesod and other settlements, both communal and private, compared with 7,400,000 litres in the 1937 period and 7,900,000 litres in the 1938 period.

During the same three months, egg production amounted to 13 million units, compared with 11 and 8 million units in the 1937 and 1938 corresponding periods respectively. Thus, production rose by 59 per cent, and sales went up by 60.3 per cent. Keren Hayesod settlements produce 61 per cent. of all eggs from Jewish farms. Middle-class settlements supported by public Jewish institutions shared in egg and poultry production by about one-third.

During the whole of 1939, there were 34,500,000 litres of milk produced by Jewish farmers, or 2½ million litres more than in 1938. Egg production was 58 million units, or 10 million more than in 1938. Vegetables marketed also increased to 16,000 tons, compared with 14,000 tons in 1938.

### PALESTINE ORCHESTRA PLAYS FOR H.M. FORCES

Sarafand, January 24th.

THE Palestine Symphony Orchestra paid its first visit to Sarafand where a special concert was given for H.M. Forces. The audience, nearly 900 men, gave the orchestra a rousing reception.

### ANTI-MUSTARD GAS OINTMENT

#### I.C.I. Start Production in Palestine

Haifa, January 21st.

IMPERIAL Chemical Industries, Ltd., have succeeded in obtaining the permission of the United Kingdom Government to bring to Palestine the raw materials necessary for the manufacture of anti-mustard gas ointment, and production has begun here on the model of the ointments manufactured in England.

The preparation has been adapted to the local market under the instructions of Major A. D. Spark, M.C., the Air Raid Precautions Adviser who spent eight months in Palestine last year.

Chlorian, the material from which the Palestinian ointment is made, is considered to be a much better ingredient than the bleaching powder which forms the base of similar anti-gas ointments made in other countries. The durability of the Palestine ointment is thus assured.

It is understood that the Palestine Government has acquired large quantities of the new ointment.

### OVER 1,000 STUDENTS AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Jerusalem, January 20th.

FOR the first time in its history, the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus has a student body exceeding 1,000. It is believed that the School of Agriculture will be established in 1940.

### JEWISH-ARAB-ENGLISH COMPANY

Tel-Aviv, January 17th.

"HAARETZ" reports that a company, composed of Jewish, Arab and English partners, intends to run a service of taxicabs between Haifa, Tel-Aviv and Cairo. The trip will take eight hours and cost over LP.2.

(See also "Letter from Palestine," on page 12.—Ed.)

### Increasing Production of Palestine Potash

Jerusalem, January 22nd.

THE growing production of Palestine Potash, Ltd., at the Dead Sea works is reflected by the fact that in 1939 there were 70,000 tons of potash, compared with 47,000 tons in 1938 and 29,000 in 1937. From January to August the production was about 6,000 tons per month, and this rate was maintained after the war began. Sales of potash and bromine last year were valued at £500,000 compared with £323,000 in 1938.

## Extension of Zionist Executive Sought

Tel-Aviv, January 24th.

"HAARETZ" reveals that at the last meeting of the Smaller Zionist General Council held in Jerusalem the question was discussed of the extension of the Zionist section of the Jewish Agency Executive, concerning which negotiations have been proceeding among the various parties since the 21st Zionist Congress.

The request of "Hapoel Hamizrachi" for the election of a full representative on the Executive, in place of its present deputy-member (Mr. M. Shapiro), met with the strong opposition of other parties and also the non-Zionist section. The latter object to any extension of the Agency Executive, and also insist that a final decision be postponed until discussion by the Administrative Council of the Agency.

A compromise has been suggested for an extension of the Zionist Executive without extending the Jewish Agency Executive, and if the parties concerned reach agreement, it is possible that a decision will be taken by the Smaller General Council in this respect. The candidates are Dr. B. Z. Mossinson for the General Zionist Federation, Mr. Berl Locker or Mr. B. Katzenelson (editor of "Davar") for the Labour Party, and Moshe Shapiro for "Hapoel Hamizrachi."

### £150,000 BUILDING WORKS

Tel-Aviv, January 22nd.

A CONTRACT has been signed between Sole Boneh, Ltd., the Jewish building contracting bureau, and an official organisation for works amounting to LP.150,000 to be carried out "somewhere in the south of Palestine." About 1,000 Jewish workmen will be employed for several months in this connection, and the first 700 from Tel-Aviv have already left for the camp erected on their behalf.

### RISE IN CITIZENSHIP REGISTRATIONS

Jerusalem, January 19th.

DURING November, 1939, there was a considerable increase in applications by residents for naturalisation as Palestinian citizens, the number of Jewish applicants being 3,419, or five times more than the average monthly figure for the whole of 1938. In November, 1938, the number of people who became naturalised Palestinians was only 647.