



NEWS IN BRIEF.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION DURING FEBRUARY.

Jerusalem.

Figures published by the Jewish Agency show that Jewish immigration into Palestine during the month of February, 1939, totalled 1,475. The number of Jewish immigrants entering the country since the beginning of the year totals 2,682.—(Palcor.)

NEW EMEK HIGHWAY COMPLETED.

Haifa.

The new highway between Yokneam and Ain Hashophet, the American Jewish kibbutz at Juara, has now been completed, and brings into use a safe means of communication between both Emek settlements, hitherto somewhat cut off and isolated. The Keren Kayemeth has just issued a booklet in Hebrew and English describing the pioneering effort at Ain Hashophet.—(Palcor.)

PALESTINIAN FARM MACHINERY.

Tel-Aviv.

A large mowing and threshing machine is now being made at Hecharash (Ploughing) Factory in Tel-Aviv. The castings required are being turned out at the Hoffman works in Kiriath Arie, and the Technical Department of Central Hamashbir Ltd. is assisting in this experiment to produce locally-made farm machinery.—(Palcor.)

THE PALESTINE ORATORIO GIVES CONCERT.

Tel-Aviv.

"Samson" by Handel was performed with great success here on February 25th by the Palestine Oratorio Choir, under Fordhaus Ben-Tzissi, with the accompaniment of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

The Palestine Choir now consists of 150 male and female members and has a branch at Petach Tikvah. The members are mostly workpeople who give their evenings to the numerous choral rehearsals. Funds are now being sought for a suitable hall. Since its establishment by Fordhaus Ben-Tzissi, the Choir has produced Mozart's Requiem (in 1927), Haydn's "Genesis," Mendelssohn's "Elijah," Handel's "Judas Maccabeas," Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and now Handel's "Samson and Delilah."—(Palcor.)

CHIEF RABBI HERZOG CALLS FOR "NO SURRENDER, NO DESPAIR."

London.

Dr. Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, who has been attending the Palestine Conference, left London for Palestine.

His final message to the Jews was: "No surrender, and no despair. It is inconceivable that Britain will break faith with sore-stricken, severely tried, landless, homeless Israel precisely at this tragic moment in our history.

"We trust that Divine Providence will come to our rescue in this hour of intense darkness."—J.T.A.

SIXTEEN BATTALION TO BE STATIONED IN PALESTINE.

London.

In introducing the Army estimates in the House of Commons, Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Secretary for War, told the House that in regard to Palestine provision was being made for 16 battalions, but he did not say where the headquarters of the reserve battalions would be. In view of the greatly changed conditions in the Mediterranean at the present time, it might be difficult to keep up our communications with Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus and Malta, as well as with our own Dominions.

Col. Nathan said he had not gathered from the speech from what part the strategic reserves, which were to be centred in Palestine, would be drawn or what their strength would be.—J.T.A.

DEATH OF FOUNDER OF JAFFA HEBREW "GYMNASIUM."

Jerusalem.

Dr. Yehuda Metman-Cohen, the founder of the famous Jaffa Hebrew Secondary School, the "Herzlia Gymnasium," died in Tel-Aviv at the age of 70.

Dr. Metman Cohen was born in Russia and he was one of the first members of the Chovevei Zion movement. He founded the Hebrew Secondary School in Jaffa in 1906 with 48 pupils. He was also one of the founders of Tel-Aviv and a close friend of the late Meir Dizengoff, the first Mayor of Tel-Aviv.—J.T.A.

JEWISH CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS READY FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

Tel-Aviv.

The annual conference of the Jewish Co-operatives Organisations in Palestine, adopted a resolution stating that they are ready to offer the services of the whole Jewish co-operative movement in Palestine to the National institutions of the Yishub in case of emergency. The resolution concludes with the words: "We shall not surrender, we will continue our work of colonisation, construction and immigration."—J.T.A.

PALESTINE AGUDAH REJECTS MINORITY STATUS.

Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee of the Agudath Israel in Palestine adopted a resolution declaring that a minority status was unacceptable to the Jewish people in Palestine and abroad and expressing the trust that Divine protection would frustrate intrigue.—J.T.A.

OLD TESTAMENT TRANSLATED INTO BULGARIAN.

Sofia.

For the first time in history, the Old Testament has been translated into modern

Bulgarian. The translation has been published by the Jewish publishing house "Menorah" here.—J.T.A.

AMERICAN SENATORS EXPRESS CONVICTION BALFOUR DECLARATION WILL BE MAINTAINED.

Washington.

Seventeen members of the United States Senate of both parties have issued statements expressing their deep conviction that the Balfour Declaration is to be maintained, it is announced by the Zionist Political Bureau here.—J.T.A.

Dr. ISAYE SCHWARTZ ELECTED CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE.

Paris.

The Chief Rabbi of Strasbourg, Dr. Isaye Schwartz, was elected Chief Rabbi of France by the Central Jewish Consistory in France.

Chief Rabbi Schwartz succeeds Rabbi Israel Levi who has retired on account of failing health.—J.T.A.

POLISH GENERAL ZIONISTS DEMAND AN EXECUTIVE OF NATIONAL SALVATION.

Warsaw.

The Central Committee of the General Zionists Group B in Poland decided to ask the Zionist Executive in London to convene immediately a Zionist Congress to elect an "Executive of National Salvation."—J.T.A.

LORD ROTHSCHILD VISITS WHITE HOUSE.

Washington.

Accompanied by Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador, Lord Rothschild, visited the White House to pay his respects to President Roosevelt.—J.T.A.

LONDON WORLD'S FUR CENTRE AS RESULT OF ANTI-JEWISH PERSECUTION IN GERMANY.

London.

Anti-Jewish persecution in Germany is largely responsible for the decline of the German fur trade and the transfer to London of millions worth of trade formerly transacted in Leipzig, Germany, it is reliably reported from London fur-trade circles.—J.T.A.

ART SALE IN AID OF LORD BALDWIN FUND FOR REFUGEES.

London.

As a result of an appeal by Sir Neill Malcolm, Vice-Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Lord Baldwin's Fund for Refugees, to collectors to send some of their art treasures to the famous auction rooms of Christie's for sale on May 24th and 25th in aid of the Refugee Fund, nearly 100 gifts of pictures, books, jewelry, and works of art, worth several thousands of pounds, have already been received by Sir Neill Malcolm, Chairman of the Organising Committee, the "Times" announced.—J.T.A.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PROUD TO RECEIVE "AMERICAN HEBREW MAGAZINE'S AWARD."

Washington.

President Roosevelt received the "American Hebrew Magazine's" medal awarded

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